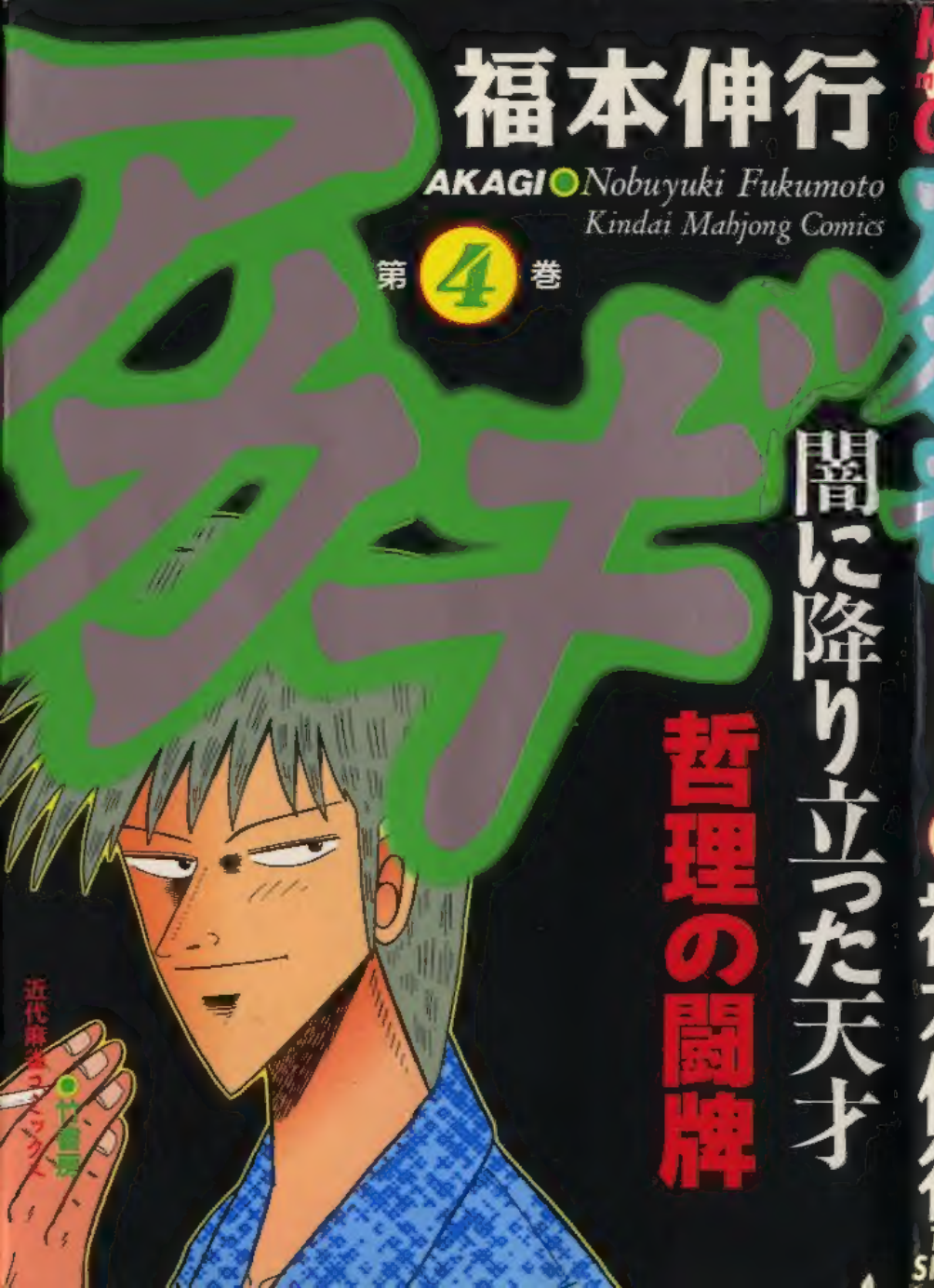
赤木

福本伸行

AKAGI ○ Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第4巻



近代麻雀コミックス ○ 竹書房

Kindai mahjong Comics

赤木

闇に降り立った天才

哲理の闘牌

哲理の闘牌 4

福本伸行

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闇に降り立った天才

近代麻雀コミックス ○ 竹書房

福本伸行

赤木

第4巻

赤木しげる

安岡

不良刑事。赤木の麻雀の才能にいち早く気付き、勝負を演出する。

南郷

昭和33年当時、多額の借金を抱え、命を賭けた麻雀勝負をしていた。

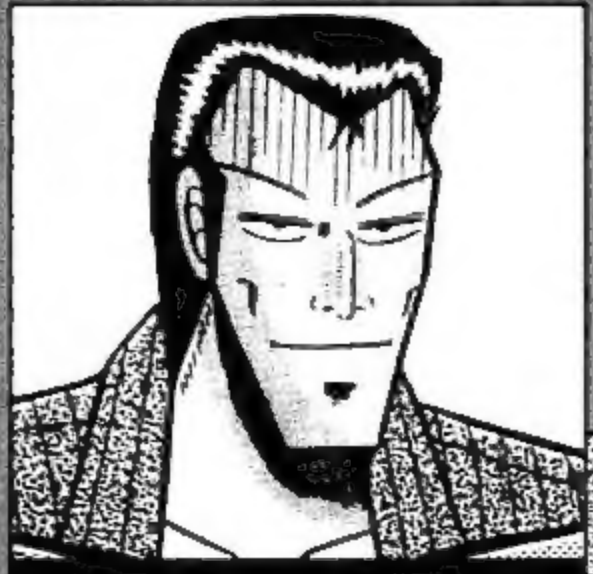
登場人物紹介

前巻までのあらすじ

昭和33年。生命を賭けたヤクザとの麻雀勝負に敗れつつあった南郷の前に現われた13歳の少年。彼こそ後に裏の麻雀界に君臨することになる赤木しげるであった。南郷に代わって、川田組幹部・竜崎、その代打ち・矢木を異端の戦略で打ち破った赤木。しかし、赤木は矢木を完全に潰すまで戦いをやめようとせず、改めて立てられた勝負の場では、盲目の雀士にして、裏麻雀界の実力者・市川をも想像を越える手段の連続で沈め、その夜の勝負は伝説と化した。が、直後に赤木は姿を消し、5年が過ぎた…。

市　川

第一級の代打ち。盲目、常人を凌ぐ技で赤木と渡り合うも、敗れた。



矢　木

南郷と勝負していた川田組の代打ち。赤木のトリックに崩れ去った。

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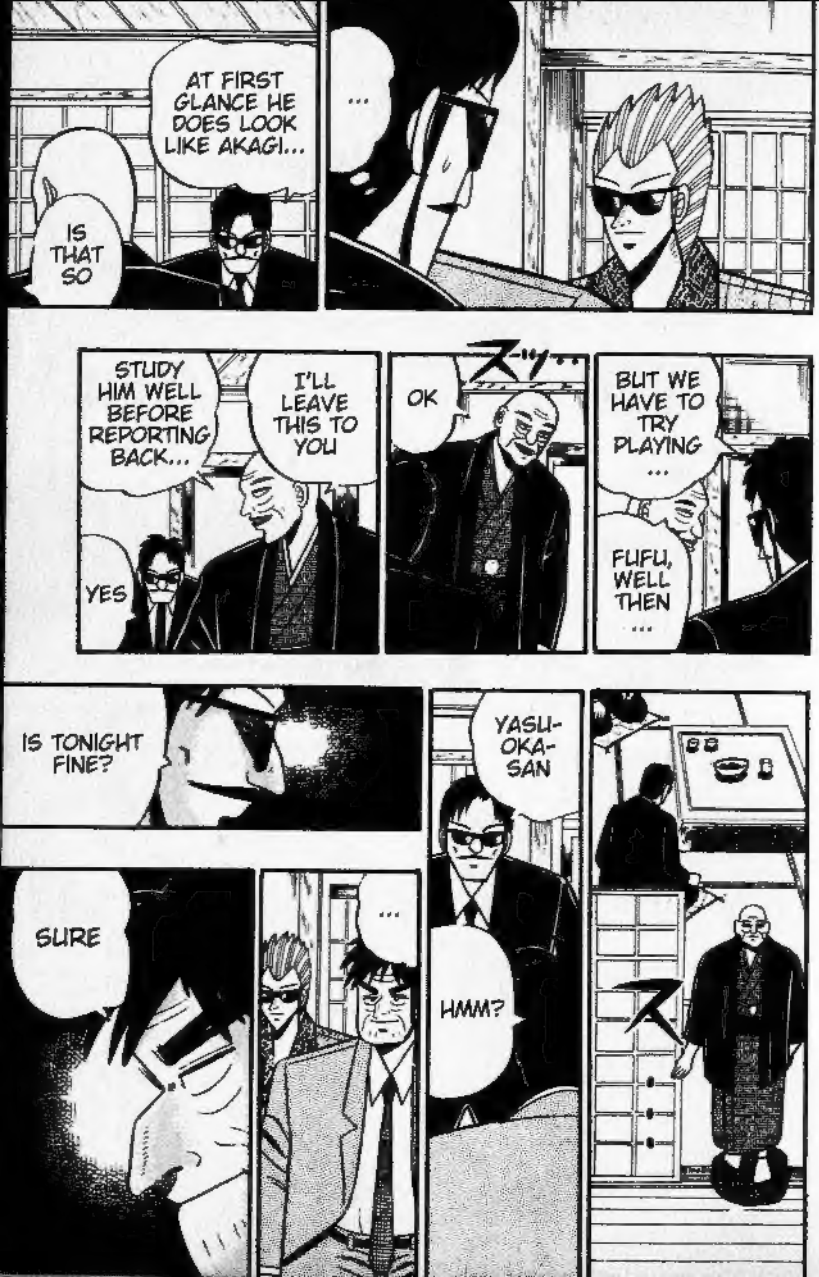
SHOWA 39
WHY WOULD I START A LIE ABOUT THAT...
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU SEE HIM...
FUFU ...
REALLY?
...IS HERE RIGHT NOW
THE ONE WHO VANISHED SIX YEARS AGO
THE ONE WHOM NO ONE HAD ANY NEWS OF
THAT AKAGI SHIGERU ...
THAT AKAGI ...

TOKYU
チン
FUFU ...
AKAGI ...
YOUR SUDDEN APPEARANCE WILL CAUSE A SENSATION

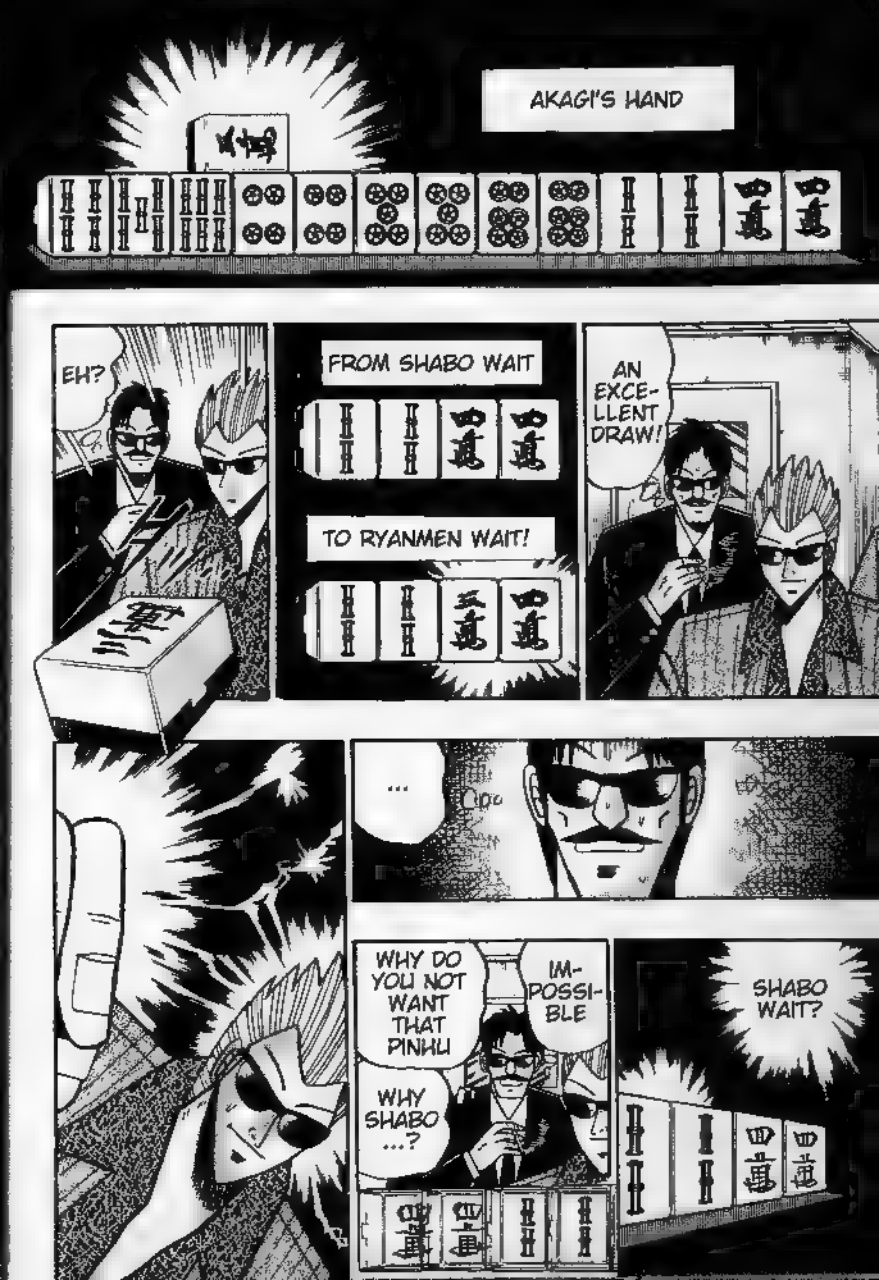
CHAPTER 28: OMEN
第28話 前兆

THE NEXT DAY
FUFU...
FU FU FU
HE DOES INDEED HAVE A STRONG AURA...
THIS IS AKAGI?
I SEE, I SEE
...
...
HOW IS HE?
THE ONE WHO SAW AKAGI THAT LEGENDARY NIGHT WAS...
BUT I DON'T KNOW THE REAL PERSON
ISHI-KAWA HERE

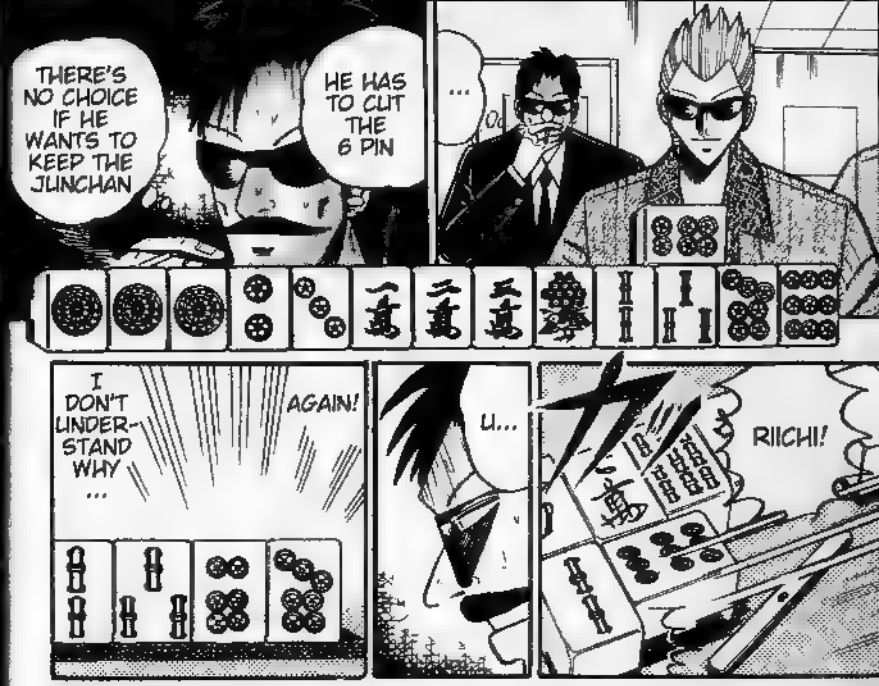

AT FIRST GLANCE HE DOES LOOK LIKE AKAGI...
IS THAT SO
...
STUDY HIM WELL BEFORE REPORTING BACK...
I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU
YES
OK
BUT WE HAVE TO TRY PLAYING ...
FUFU, WELL THEN ...
IS TONIGHT FINE?
YASU-OKA-SAN
HMM?
SURE
...

DAI SAN GEN MAHJONG PARLOR
雀荘大三元
YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM DO YOU, YASUOKA-SAN
GO AHEAD
THE PLAYERS HAVE BEEN PRE-PARED
THEY ARE THESE THREE
PLEASE SHOW ME YOUR MAHJONG
ミカラ ミカラ
NOW LET'S START
OK
SO THIS IS IT HUH
AKAGI ...
...

SIX YEARS AGO ON THAT NIGHT, HE PLAYED AS IF POSSESSED BY THE GODS
AKAGI SHIGERU
...
...
MAYBE I'LL GET TO SEE IT AGAIN
...
NOT EVE-RYONE CAN DO THAT...
MAHJONG WILL BE-COME OUR LARGEST SOURCE OF REVENUE
IF HE IS THE REAL THING
I DARE NOT BE-LIEVE
HE'D BETTER BE SPECIAL ENOUGH TO MEET YASUOKA'S 20 MILLION FOR THREE MONTHS!
THAT AKAGI SHIGERU IS IN FRONT OF ME NOW


AKAGI'S HAND
EH?
FROM SHABO WAIT
TO RYANMEN WAIT!
AN EXCE-LLENT DRAW!
...
WHY DO YOU NOT WANT THAT PINHU
IM-POSSI-BLE
WHY SHABO ...?
SHABO WAIT?

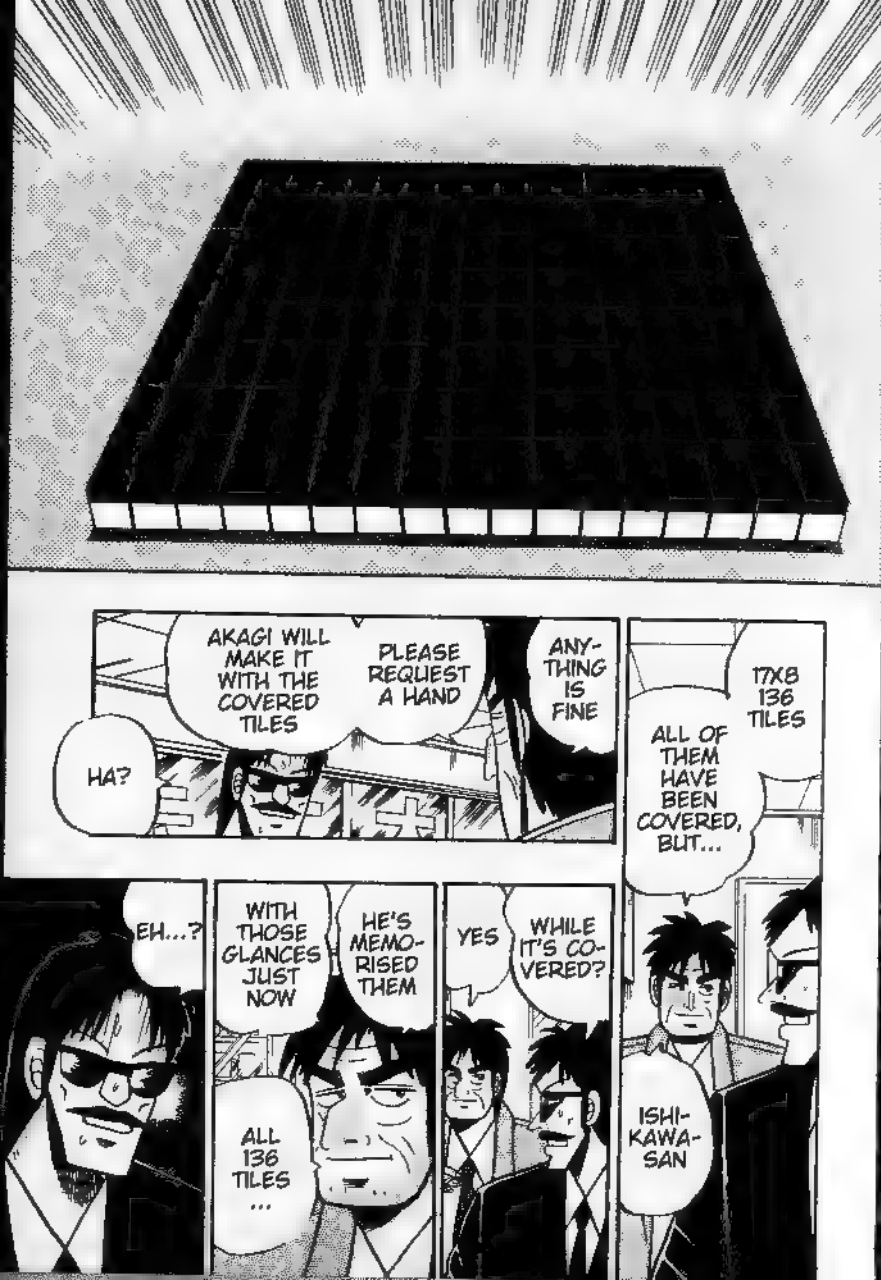
TSUMO!
BUT AKAGI WOULD NEXT
IT SEEMED LIKE A RIDICU-LOUS DRAW
MAKE UN-THINKABLE DRAWS AGAIN AND AGAIN
WHAT'S WITH HIS DRAWS ...
...WH
GU ...
SOUTH 1ST ROUND



JUNCHANCTA): ALL SETS AND THE HEAD CONTAIN TERMINAL TILES

...
...
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
...
ZAWA
さわ
さわ
ZAWA...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AKAGI SWEPT THEM
IN THE END ...
FUFU...
HOW CAN HE KEEP GETTING SUCH CRAZY DRAWS?
I DON'T GET IT

BUT A GOOD DEAL WAS READ
THE TILES WERE TURNED OVER DURING THE WASHING...
ISHI-KAWA-SAN
IT'S SIMPLE
EH?
HE GOT A GOOD GRASP OF THE TILES' POSITIONS
...
DO A DEMO
AKAGI
HOW ABOUT THIS
LET'S SAY ...
AFTER ONE GLANCE
HE GATHERS 17 RANDOM TILES
HE TURNS THEM DOWN
THIS REPEATS 8 TIMES

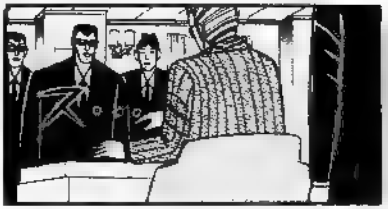

17X8
136
TILES
ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN COVERED, BUT...
ISHI-KAWA-SAN
ANY-THING IS FINE
PLEASE REQUEST A HAND
AKAGI WILL MAKE IT WITH THE COVERED TILES
HA?
WHILE IT'S CO-VERED?
YES
HE'S MEMO-RISED THEM
WITH THOSE GLANCES JUST NOW
ALL 136 TILES ...
EH...?

THEN, SAN-SHOKU
...

...
PLEASE CALL A HAND
UG...

AND WITH ONLY THAT GLANCE
MEM-ORI-SED
...
IT WAS SUF-FICIENT

IMPOSS-IBLE...



チャ…

...
ざわざわ・
ZAWA ZAWA...
T-THEN
NEXT IS KOKUSHI ...
THIS GUY... REALLY ...
ニヤラ...
TSU ISO: ALL DRAGON OR WIND TILES
GIVEN THE KOKUSHI, THIS IS HARD
HE CAN'T MAKE IT IF HE DOESN'T REMEMBER
DAI SAN GEN TSU ISO!
HOW ABOUT THIS!
HE ...
...

ニィナナ・・・

發 發 發

中 中 東 東 東 西

SOME-THING'S OFF

BUT...

IT'S INDEED AMA-ZING

I THINK IT'S A GODLY TECH-NIQUE

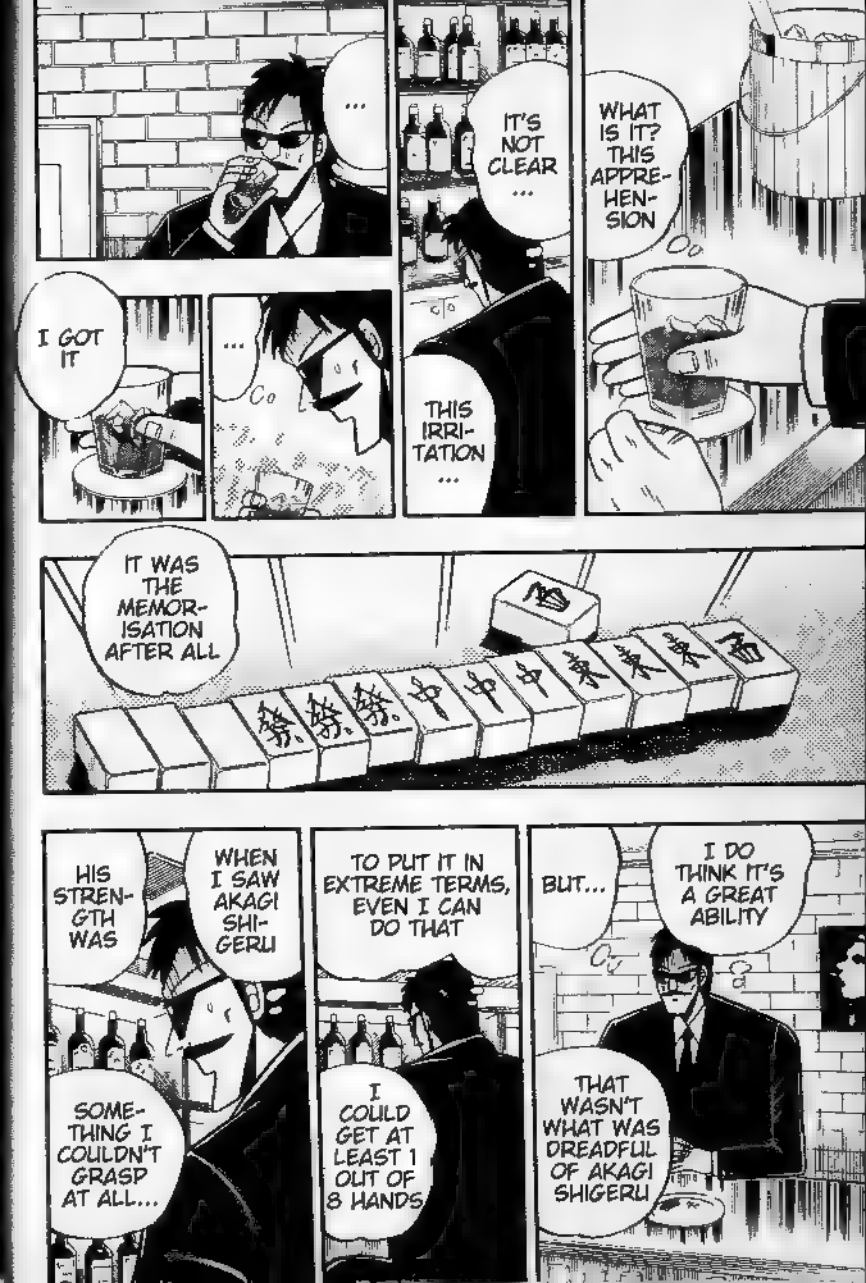
パチ・エリート

UGH ...

IT'S ENOUGH ...

ANY OTHER OR-DERS?

NO ...


...
IT'S NOT CLEAR ...
THIS IRRITATION ...
WHAT IS IT? THIS APPREHENSION
I GOT IT
...
IT WAS THE MEMORISATION AFTER ALL
HIS STRENGTH WAS
WHEN I SAW AKAGI SHIGERU
SOMETHING I COULDN'T GRASP AT ALL...
TO PUT IT IN EXTREME TERMS, EVEN I CAN DO THAT
I COULD GET AT LEAST 1 OUT OF 8 HANDS
BUT...
I DO THINK IT'S A GREAT ABILITY
THAT WASN'T WHAT WAS DREADFUL OF AKAGI SHIGERU

A POWER THAT
SURPASSED US ORDINARY PEOPLE
...
BOSS, THIS IS ISHI-KAWA
...
OH, ISHI-KAWA ... HOW WAS IT?
AKAGI HAS FALLEN
STILL, IT'S TRUE THAT HE HAS ABILITIES BEYOND NORMAL PEOPLE
HIS TALENT PEAKED AT 13; HE'S NOW A DIFFERENT PERSON...
HO...
IS THAT SO...
NO MATTER HOW FAR HE'S FALLEN, AS LONG AS HE'S STRONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE, IT'S THE SAME
THEN I DON'T MIND
YES ...
...

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THAT
A 2ND-RATE AKAGI ...
THIS SUCKS ...
ZAWA ZAWA
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON US!
ざわ ざわ
THIS FUCKER!
4 ON 1, HUH ...
...
IF I COULD, I'D CALL MY GANG IN TOO
JUST TO GET RID OF THIS SHITTY FEELING
...

THIS FU-!
EH?
フワ…!
ガ…
ドド
GU-

U...
OI!
OI
GUYS ...
EH?
AAG
UU...
DON'T!
DON'T
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
U...
カラ...
HIII!!

AKAGI SHIGERU!?
IM-POSS-IBLE
AKAGI WAS STILL PLAYING MAHJONG JUST NOW...
NO!
DID HE GET INTO A FIGHT?
IT'S DIFF-ERENT!
THIS GUY AND THE ONE JUST NOW HAVE DIFFERENT AURAS
THEY'RE TWO PEOPLE ...

THERE ARE TWO AKAGI SHIGERUS ...?

第29話小銭

...
AKAGI?
...
IS IT AKAGI ...?
YOU ...
ARE YOU AKAGI SHIGERU?
SIX YEARS AGO...
THE AKAGI SHIGERU WHO FOUGHT A DEATH MATCH WITH ICHIKAWA...
ARE YOU THAT AKAGI SHIGERU?

CHAPTER 29: SMALL CHANGE

第29話 小銭

SIX YEARS AGO, I WAS ONLY THE THIRD OF THE KAWADA GROUP
BUT THAT WAS THEN ...
OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHO I AM
NO, WELL ...
YOU VANISHED STRAIGHT AWAY...
AFTER THAT MATCH
IT WAS SURE DIFFICULT TO...
SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ME
AND I DIDN'T HAVE THIS MOUSTACHE
A...
HOLD ON!
O-OI!
FOR MANY REA-SONS ...
I'VE BEEN SEAR-CHING FOR YOU

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU
HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
O-
OI!
OI!
AKAGI!
...
AKAGI...

A WEEK LATER

HAA...
...
NANGOU
YES
ISHIKAWA
...A-
AKAGI?
高乃

IT WOULD BE HARD FOR ME TO TELL IF HE'S THE RIGHT PERSON
NORMALLY MY IMPRESSION OF HIM WOULD HAVE FADED
IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE I SAW HIM TOO
WELL, ABOUT THAT
HIS UNIQUENESS WILL BLAZE
IF IT'S AKAGI
I DOUBT I'LL MAKE A MISTAKE
HOWEVER ...
THAT MAN IS A FAKE
THEN... IT CAN'T BE THE WRONG PERSON, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT I THINK...
NO
IF YASUOKA-SAN SAYS THAT GUY IS AKAGI
BUT IT'S THE SAME WITH YASUOKA-SAN
YASUOKA IS ONLY MAKING USE OF THE NAME "AKAGI"...
BUT I'VE CONCLUDED THAT HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON
I TOO THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT THAT HE WAS THE REAL THING...
I'D OBSERVED THAT "AKAGI" FOR A NIGHT

HAA...
WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO TROUBLE NANGOU-SAN NOW
I STILL NEED SOME CONFIR-MATION
CONC-ERNING THAT
A WEEK AGO I WAS RE-TURNING FROM OBSERVING THAT FAKE AKAGI
YES
AND DEEP IN THE NIGHT ...
ONE MORE ...?
REGARDING ONE MORE AKAGI...
...I WISH FOR YOU TO LEND ME YOUR AID
SHOULD BE THE AKAGI WE KNOW
THAT ONE...
BEFORE I COULD SAY ANY-THING HE VANISHED
I SAW ANOTHER AKAGI!

HIS FACE IS KNOWN BY EVERY-ONE
...
WHEN I HEARD FROM OTHERS LATER
YES...
THAT GUY IS QUITE FAMOUS AMONG THE PUNKS
A FIGHT?
...
UN-CALLED FOR?
THEY ALSO SEE HIM AS A DANGEROUS, UNCALLED-FOR EXISTENCE
WELL... THOSE WORDS ARE BIASED, BUT...
カチャ
IT'S SAID THAT IF YOU AREN'T IN A GROUP OF AT LEAST FIVE, DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH HIM
HAA ...
AN IN-COMPRE-HENSIBLE FEAR... A FIGHTING MANIAC...
HE DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE HIS VICTIMS
OF COURSE, HE'S SKILLED...

...
MAY I HAVE NANGOU-SAN CONFIRM IF THIS MAN IS AKAGI
THIS DANGEROUS MAN
SO I CAN'T USE HIM
YASUOKA-SAN IS BACKING THE FAKE AKAGI UP
ARE NANGOU-SAN AND YASUOKA-SAN, BUT
THE PEOPLE WHO CAN BE CONSIDERED CLOSE TO AKAGI
I'VE FOUND OUT
WHERE HE IS
HAA...
I CAN ONLY RELY ON YOU
FUFU...
BUT... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEE HIM...

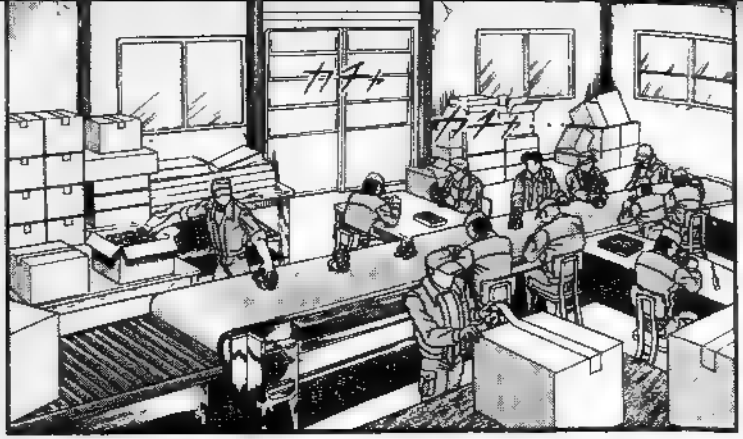
HAA ...
IS JUST AHEAD
AKAGI'S LOCA-TION
IT'S SIMPLE ...
?
BUT I DON'T GET HOW ...?
IS THAT SO?

HAA...
AFTER FIVE DAYS, I GOT HIM
WE'LL MINGLE WITH THE KIDS UNTIL AKAGI CAME
IF HE CAME, WE'LL FOLLOW HIM...
AND WHEN I FOUND THE SHOPS WHO KNEW AKAGI
I DECIDED ON THE KIDS' HAUNTS
PACHINKO, BAR, MAHJONG PARLOR, THE PLACES WHERE HE'D APPEAR
MY UNDERLINGS DID A THOROUGH SEARCH
THIS IS AKAGI'S HOME
WE'VE ARRIVED

沼田玩具
A TOY FACTORY?
YES
AKAGI IS AN EMPLOYEE HERE
EEH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT...
FUFU...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY LOOKING WITH YOUR OWN EYES THROUGH THAT GAP
SINCE HE'S WORKING RIGHT NOW
...

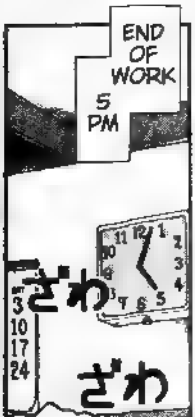
ナゲ…
HOW IS HE?
IT LOOKS LIKE HIM...
I SHOULDN'T BE WRONG... IT SHOULD BE CORRECT
KU KU ...
ISN'T IT?

AND CONFIRM IF THIS IS AKAGI
WE'LL COME BACK
...
IT'S 4 NOW
THEY'LL END ONE HOUR LATER
THEN ...
HAA...
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH
EVEN SO...
HAA ...
FUFU ...
AKAGI IS ACTUALLY DILIGENTLY WORKING...
BUT...
AKAGI IS NO EXCEP-TION
WELL, IT'S UP TO YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR PATH IN LIFE
FUFU ...
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT



ZAWA...

ZAWA ZAWA



AAAA
EXCLUDING THE HOSTEL FEE
I GET 12000 ...
KU KU ...
SHOWA 39 COLLEGE GRADUATES GET AROUND 20000
FIRST MONTH'S PAY HERE...
THIS IS OK...
ORDINARY ...
I THINK THIS PLACE IS DECENT...
YO
NEW GUY

MAH-JONG?
IT'S MAHJONG
WANNA TAKE A SHOT?
ON PAYDAYS
THIS PLACE HAS A TRADI-TION
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TODAY
SORRY, BUT
YOU SHOULDN'T REJECT IT
TODAY'S MAHJONG IS TO WELCOME YOU AS WELL
COME ON!
HEY ...
WE'LL LEAVE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO EAT
SO DON'T WORRY
WELL, WE WON'T TAKE AWAY ALL YOUR PAY
COME ON
WE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS OTHERWISE

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH PAYING A TUITION FEE AT THE START
IT HELPS BUILD SOCIAL TIES
KU KU ...
MORE LIKE... YOU WANT MY MONEY
THE THREE OF YOU
NO NO
YOU CAN ALSO WIN, YOU KNOW
THAT HAS LIMITS
HA HA HA ...
WELL
THAT'S TRUE...
KU KU KU ...
AKAGI-KUN
YOU NEED TO MEET SOME-ONE
...
MEET?

AKAGI ...
OH?
SEEING YOU UP CLOSE, I CAN TELL YOU'RE THE REAL THING
...I'M NOT WRONG, AM I ...
WHAT'S UP? NANGOU-SAN
... KU KU KU
U...
OFF I GO
WELL THEN, SENPAIS
ARE YOU FREE? AFTER THIS?
I DON'T MIND
...
SURE
IS THIS FINE?
IT'S NOT-HING IMPOR-TANT

EH!?
ビクッ
OSAMU!
SINCE AKAGI CAN'T, YOU HAVE TO DO IT
BLAME IT ON AKAGI!
I'VE DONE IT FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS...
THAT'S ...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
IT'S YOU THIS MONTH AGAIN!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
EHH!
THEN JUST REFUSE
I CAN'T DO THAT!
I'VE TO GO OUT
DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY
IN THE FIRST PLACE
AKAGI-SAN, PLEASE TAKE MY PLACE
PLEASE!
EH?

THEY HAVE PLAY-ERS THERE
YOU CAN GAMBLE THERE ALL YOU WANT
AAH?
THEN GO TO A MAH-JONG PAR-LOR
PLAY-ERS!
WE DON'T ENOUGH PLAYERS!
SEE ...
TO TAKE AWAY OUR PAY ....
JUST DON'T GANG UP ON US KIDS
THE FUCK!?
... WHAT
TURN TO VIOL-ENCE!
DON'T ...
DON'T ...
LET'S NOT DO THIS
A-
YOU BASTARD! HOW DARE YOU TALK BACK TO YOUR SENPAI!

KU KU ...
YOU'LL GET IT WHEN YOU COME BACK!
...
CH!
NOT AT ALL
I CAUSED SOME TROUBLE
... SORRY ABOUT THAT...
EVERY FACTORY HAS AT LEAST TWO OR THREE OF SUCH PEOPLE
NO MATTER WHERE I GO
BUT ...

I WONDER WHY...
EH?
HM?
WHY THEY DON'T LIVE MORE FREELY...
...
HMPH
I SEE... SO THAT'S IT
...I'M SORRY, AKAGI
HE SAID HE JUST HAD SOMETHING TO SAY...
FUFU ...
AKAGI ...

WHY'RE YOU DOING ALL THESE JOBS THAT'RE UNFIT FOR YOU...
YOU CAN'T JUST FOOL AROUND FOREVER!
THAT SMALL CHANGE YOU GET FROM HONEST WORK
CAN'T BUY YOU YOUR LIFE!
KU KU ...
KU KU KU ...

CHAPTER 30: AUTHENTICITY
第30話 真贋

A WEEK AGO...
ON THE NIGHT I MET WITH YOU
YASUOKA BROUGHT IN A FAKE AKAGI
KU KU KU ...
HE'S DIRTY AS ALWAYS, THAT COP...
SO DOES HE LOOK LIKE ME? THAT GUY
YES...
HE RESEMBLES YOU, OF COURSE, BUT THAT'S ALL TO IT
SINCE HE'S BORROW-ING YOUR NAME
MAH-JONG-WISE...
HE CAN'T BE BAD

HMPH
HE DIDN'T PULL OFF ANYTHING BIG, BUT THE VICTORY WAS SECURED RIGHT FROM THE START
HE PLAYED AS OUR REP PLAYER EFFORTLESSLY
ON MONDAY'S AND THURS-DAY'S MATCHES
HE'S STILL HUMAN
WHILE THAT MAN IS A GENIUS
HE PUTS QUITE A BIT OF TRUST IN HIM...
BUT I'M WORR-IED
THE BOSS IS TAKEN IN BY HIS CLEVER STYLE
YOU'LL NATURA-LLY LOSE HALF THE TIME
IF YOU PLAY NOR-MALLY ...
YOU DEFINITELY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THE GODLY TILES
IN OTHER WORDS... HE'S ORDINARY
IF WE TRIED HARD ENOUGH WE COULD CATCH UP TO HIM
HE'S SECOND-RATE
FOR US PEOPLE ON THE BORDER ...

HE'LL BE DEVOURED
THE DE-MONS OF MAH-JONG
WHEN HE MEETS THE WORLD'S EVILS...
THAT WON'T HAPPEN WHEN HE MEETS BIGGER OPPONENTS ...
WHILE HE MAY BE WINNING NOW
OIOI
WE REALLY NEED YOU...
ONLY YOU CAN DO IT
AKA-GI...
IF WE WANT TO FIGHT THEM
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I KNOW
THAT SORT OF EVIL
...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
YES ...
THAT'S WHAT WE AGREED ON...
I DON'T WANT ANY-THING BEYOND THAT
I CAME JUST TO SEE THE IMPOSTER

YES
YOU'VE SEEN THE REAL THING?

IS THAT SO...

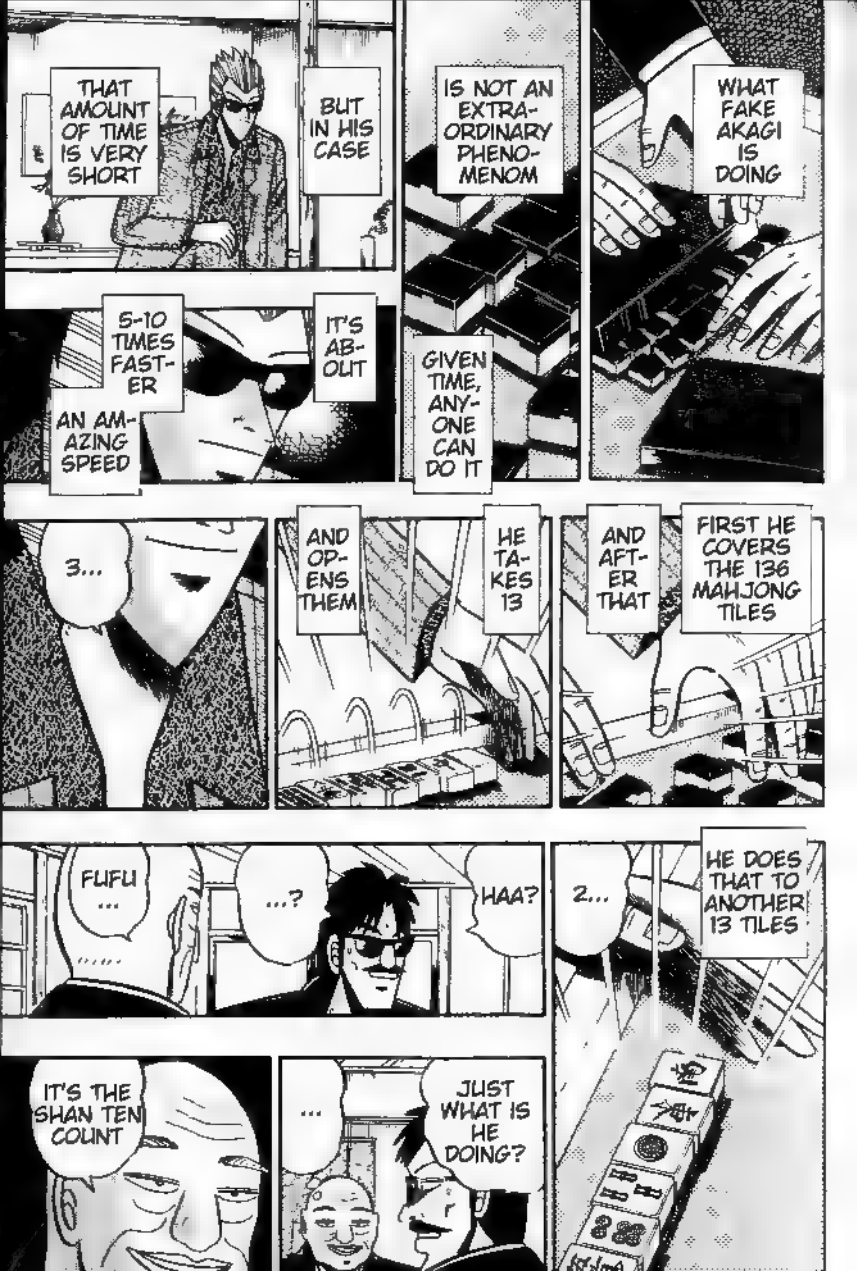
I DO NOT NEED THAT ISHIKAWA ANYMORE
HA?

HOWEVER
GOOD WORK ...

HE'S A NEW TYPE OF PLAYER
THE ONE YOU CALL A FAKE ...
I FAVOUR THAT MAN
...
HE DOESN'T PLAY ON GUT FEELING
EVERY PLAY IS BASED ON REASON
THERE'S THE SECURITY OF "VICTORY"
HE DOESN'T WIN BIG, BUT HE WON'T LOSE BIG EITHER
THAT IS CERTAINLY GREAT
HE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT SITUATION ...
...
ERR...
ISHIKAWA ...
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?
YOU DON'T NEED GODLY BLESSINGS
WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING AS A REP
IF YOU CAN BEAT THE AVERAGE

OI ...
YASU-OKA-SAN!
THE OTHER AKAGI!
THEY LOOK ALIKE...
THEY REALLY DO!

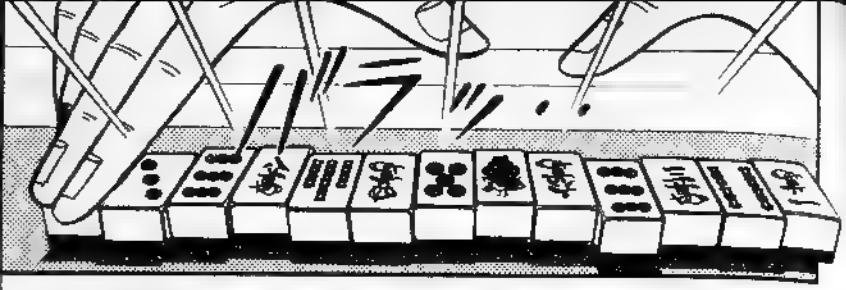
ざわ…
…
ざわ
ZAWA...
ZAWA...
FROM HERE ...
YASUOKA-KUN... PLEASE SHOW US AN EXAMPLE ONCE MORE
…
ISHI-KAWA
FUFU
…?
AND WHETHER THE REAL ONE CAN DO IT
LET'S SEE SOMETHING INTEREST-ING

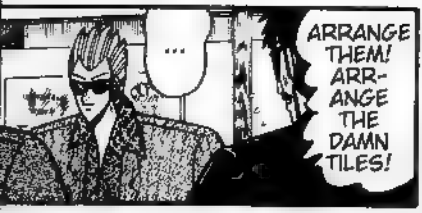

THAT AMOUNT OF TIME IS VERY SHORT
BUT IN HIS CASE
IS NOT AN EXTRA-ORDINARY PHENO-MENOM
WHAT FAKE AKAGI IS DOING
5-10 TIMES FAST-ER
AN AM-AZING SPEED
IT'S AB-OUT
GIVEN TIME, ANY-ONE CAN DO IT
3...
AND OP-ENS THEM
HE TA-KES 13
AND AFT-ER THAT
FIRST HE COVERS THE 136 MAHJONG TILES
FUFU ... .
...?
HAA?
2...
HE DOES THAT TO ANOTHER 13 TILES
IT'S THE SHAN TEN COUNT
...
JUST WHAT IS HE DOING?

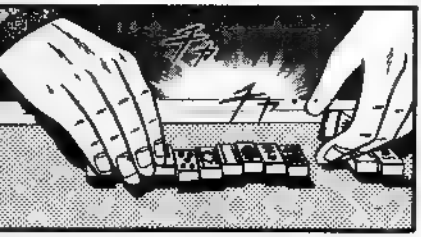
...
HE CAN EFFORTLESSLY IDENTIFY THE SHAN TEN NUMBER OF THE 13 TILES IN ONE GLANCE
THAT'S WHAT HE'S DOING
SHAN TEN...?
OI! ARRANGE IT!
...
AND THE NEXT IS REALLY 2
IF IT'S REALLY 3
THEN ...
HE DIDN'T EVEN ARRANGE IT
IMPOSSIBLE
HE DID IT IN A SECOND
U ...
...
チャリ...
AND THE NEXT ...
THE FIRST IS 3 SHAN TEN...

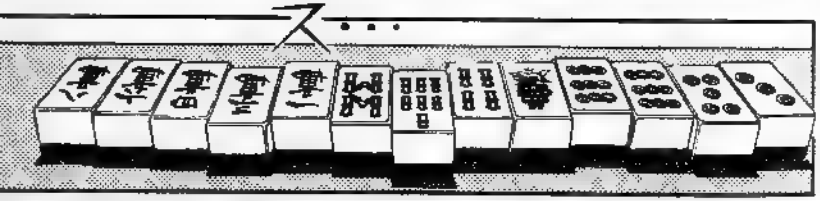
3 SHAN TEN!
ISHIKAWA-SAN SAID HE WAS WEAK, BUT HE'S A DIFFERENT GENIUS FROM AKAGI...
IN A SPLIT SECOND, HE
SOME-HOW READ IT...
HE'S COR-RECT ...
HAD BEEN GATHERED FROM 13 OF THE 19 REMAINING TILES...
AND WHEN THE LAST ROW
A CA-SUAL DIS-PLAY OF HIS ABILITY
THIS CON-TINUED WITHOUT PAUSE
...
5...
WHEN...
HE WAS ABOUT TO OPEN IT

3...
ZAWA...
ざわ
...
EH?
ZAWA...
WHY? I KNOW IT'S THE NUMBER...
... HOW? SHAN TEN
3?
ざわ
HE HASN'T OPENED THE HAND YET...
FUFU...









TA ZI (TAATSU): INCOMPLETE SET

3 SHAN TEN!

THAT'S NO SURPRISE, BOSS

KU KU ...

NO?

HM

THAT SIMPLE TRICK...

IT'S EASY TO GRASP

...MEAN-ING?

WHAT IS IT? THE TRICK ...

LET'S HEAR IT

ZAWA...

...

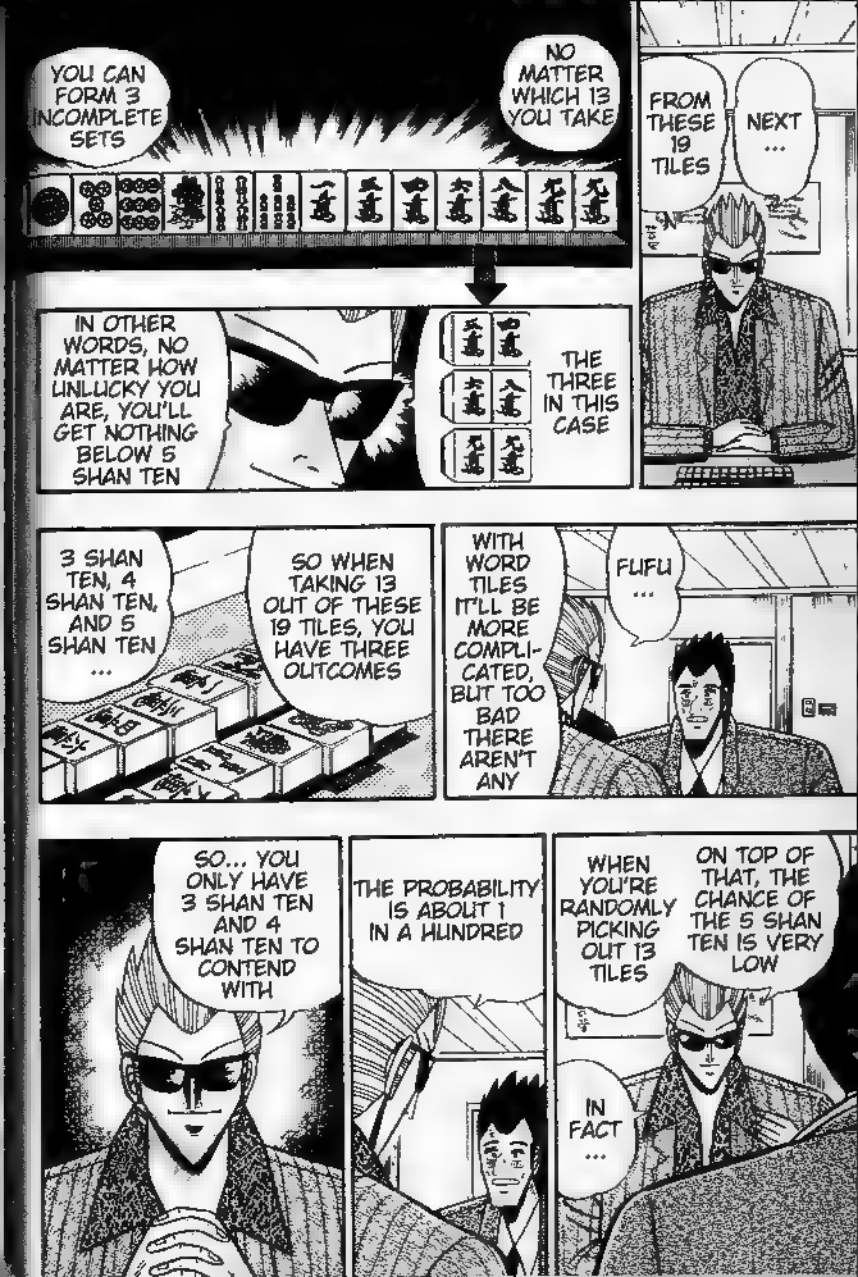
THIS'S BECOME INTEREST-ING...

HO ...

HE GOT IT RIGHT!

ざわ…
ざわ…
…
ZAWA... ZAWA...
IT'S NOT A COMPLEX ONE, BUT
IT'S STILL
SO THIS …
THEN …
KU KU …
BUT A TRICK, YOU SAY?
IS NOT AKAGI'S GUT INSTINCT
THIS GUY …
…HE'S SAYING IT WITH SUCH CONFI-DENCE
WHAT THOSE 19 TILES ARE CAN BE DISCERNED BY ANYONE
…
EVEN AN ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL KID CAN GIVEN TIME
13X9 = 117 TILES HAVE ALREADY BEEN OPENED
IF ANYONE THINKS A LITTLE, IT'LL BECOME OBVIOUS
THERE'RE 19 TILES LEFT
IT ISN'T SOMETHING AS ABSURD AS GUT INSTINCT…
JUST A TRICK

IN ORDER WORDS, THE OPENED 13 TILES AND
ADDED UP TO 19 TILES,
1 SOU, 3 SOU AND THE TWO 9 MANS
1 PIN, 7 PIN,
THE REST ...
IT ISN'T DIFFICULT TO GUESS THE SHAN TEN COUNT BEFORE THE HAND IS OPENED
WAS ALREADY KNOWN TO HIM
TO FORM A HAND TWO TILES FROM TENPAI
YOU NEED A HEAD AND A SET
アタマ
メンツ
FIRST, BECAUSE THERE'RE NO SETS IN THE 19 TILES,
IT'S IMPOSS-IBLE TO HAVE 2 SHAN TEN OR HIGHER
THESE 19 TILES DO NOT SATISFY THAT


YOU CAN FORM 3 INCOMPLETE SETS
NO MATTER WHICH 13 YOU TAKE
FROM THESE 19 TILES
NEXT ...
IN OTHER WORDS, NO MATTER HOW UNLUCKY YOU ARE, YOU'LL GET NOTHING BELOW 5 SHAN TEN
THE THREE IN THIS CASE
3 SHAN TEN, 4 SHAN TEN, AND 5 SHAN TEN ...
SO WHEN TAKING 13 OUT OF THESE 19 TILES, YOU HAVE THREE OUTCOMES
WITH WORD TILES IT'LL BE MORE COMPLI-CATED, BUT TOO BAD THERE AREN'T ANY
FUFU ...
SO... YOU ONLY HAVE 3 SHAN TEN AND 4 SHAN TEN TO CONTEND WITH
THE PROBABILITY IS ABOUT 1 IN A HUNDRED
WHEN YOU'RE RANDOMLY PICKING OUT 13 TILES
ON TOP OF THAT, THE CHANCE OF THE 5 SHAN TEN IS VERY LOW
IN FACT ...

YOU'D GET 3 SHAN TEN 6-7 TIMES OUT OF 10
GIVEN THE TILES HERE
NO...
ONE OF THE TWO
YOU'LL GET IT MOST OF THE TIME EVEN WITHOUT THINKING
SO IT'S NOTHING SURPRISING IF HE GETS IT CORRECT
YOU HAVE A HIGHER SHOT AT 3 SHAN TEN THAN 4
NOT "GUT INST-INCT"
IT WAS DE-DUCED
SIMPLE PROB-ABILITY
PROB-ABI-LITY ...
ZAWA...
FUFU ...
ざわ
ざわ
...
ZAWA...
BUT NOT ME
YOU CAN FOOL PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT PROBABILITY
A. KA. GI. SAN ...

YOU'RE OFF
YOU ARE ORDI-NARY ...
I SEE ...
KU KU KU ...
...
WHAT!?

ざわ…
ざわ…
ZAWA... ZAWA...
WAIT!
WELL THEN ...
THAT IT WAS YOUR SENSES ...
...
YOU'RE SAYING IT WASN'T CHA-NCE?
...
IF YOU CLAIM IT WAS THAT,
YOU AIN'T GOING TO RUN AWAY!
YOU'D DAMN BETTER SHOW IT TO ME

ADD TO THESE TEN 3 MORE TILES TO MAKE A 4 SHAN TEN
CHOOSE THREE FROM THESE
BUT YOU CAN ONLY USE THE REMAINING NINE TILES ...
...
IF YOU CAN MAKE A 4 SHAN TEN USING THIS, I'LL BE-LIEVE IT
OF COURSE ...
THEY ARE COV-ERED
...
IN YOUR "SENSES" THAT SUR-PASS CHANCE
AND MIXED ...

THESE TEN TILES ARE ALREADY 4 SHAN TEN
THIS TIME IT'S ALREADY 4 SHAN TEN
MEANING HE CAN'T ADD ANY HALF-SETS...
RIDI-CULOUS ...
AMONG THESE NINE
AND THAT CONDITION
THERE'S ONLY 4 TILES HE CAN TAKE
AREN'T THE ODDS OF SUCCESS REALLY LOW?
...
IT'S JUST AS NANGOU THOUGHT
THERE MAY BE TWO 1 SOUS BUT
HE CAN ONLY PICK ONE, OR THEY'LL FORM A PAIR
AT FIRST GLANCE, AS 4 OF THE 9 TILES CAN BE PICKED
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS A 50% CHANCE, HOWEVER,
AND IT'LL BE 3 SHAN TEN
THE ODDS OF THOSE TILES WAS ACTUALLY
BELOW 3%...

FUFU...
...
BY PER-CENT IT'S 2.38%
IT'S A PAPER-THIN CHANCE
THERE ARE 6 POSSIBLE PERMUTA-TIONS
WHEN GROUPED
THE TOTAL ODDS ARE 12/504...
ADDING THE CHANCES UP
WH-WHAT?
...
INTERE-STING...
I'LL CROSS IT...
THAT ROPE...

CHAPTER 31: DIFFERENCE
第31話「別」

ざわ
...
ZAWA...
THE TEN ALREADY HAVE 4 TATSU, MEANING 4 SHAN TEN...
HE CAN'T MAKE ANY MENTSU
ANOTHER 3 TO MAKE A 4 SHAN TEN, HE SAID...
ADD TO THOSE TILES
YOU'RE TAKING THIS UP, AKAGI?
IMPOSSIBLE ...
THIS RIDICULOUS GAMBLE
BUT ...
...
YOU KNOW THAT, AKAGI
THE CHANCES ARE ABSURD
THE PROBABILITY NEARS 2.38%
AMONG THE 9 TILES
HE CAN ONLY DRAW 3 OUT OF 4

EVEN IF IT'S SOMETHING LIKE AN ARM
EH...
SO YOU CAN'T OBJECT TO WHAT WE'LL BET ON
YOU CHALLENGED ME TO THIS, AND WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE TOO
DOESN'T MATTER
WHY OR WHAT
I DEFINITELY CAN'T TAKE THAT!
RIDICU-LOUS!
THERE'S NO CERTAINTY, IS THERE?
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS IS GAMBLING
NO!?
WHY?

I'M NOT SAYING I'M AFRAID OF LOSING
DON'T GET ME WRONG
I'M SAYING THIS IS STUPID
IF THERE EXISTS A 1% CHANCE OF IT HAPPENING
BUT HOWEVER LOW THE CHANCE IS, IT'S NOT ZERO
THEN I CAN'T BET WITH MY ARM AT STAKE
... I AM
SO YOU AREN'T CONFI-DENT?
WHAT ...
HOW CAN I PUT MY LIFE AT RISK JUST FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
WHO CAN TELL IF THERE'S A MINE IN THE FIELD?
WHILE THE PROBABILITY IS LOW
FUFU
IS EXACTLY THE POINT OF GAMB-LING
THAT MEANING-LESS DEATH
THAT'S RIGHT ...
... MEAN-INGLESS DEATH ...
I JUST DON'T WANT A MEAN-INGLESS DEATH
IN ORDER WORDS I'M NOT AFRAID OF DEATH

I REALISED THIS A VERY LONG TIME AGO
ISN'T IT RIGHT?
...
YOU AND I WE'RE DIFFERENT TYPES
NO...
IT'S ABOUT THE LEVEL
THIS ISN'T ABOUT TYPE
...
THAT'S WHY...
YOUR GAMBLING HASN'T REACHED THE HIGHER LEVELS OF GAMBLING
YOU'RE VERY SHORT-SIGHTED
ALL YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU'RE GAMBLING IS CALCULATE
YOU HAVEN'T DELVED INTO THE OCEAN BEHIND YOU
I HAVE, AND AM TELLING YOU THIS FROM IT

ざわ..ざわ..
ZAWA... ZAWA...
THAT'S IT...
I SEE, I'VE READ IT...
YOUR TRICK
RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU NEVER INTENDED
TO TAKE THIS 4 SHAN TEN CHALL-ENGE
BUT IF YOU REJECTED IT YOU'LL LOOK WEAK
YOU WANT TO AVOID THAT
SO YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE
AND AFTER THAT
YOU GET AT MY NERVES WITH AN UNACCEPTABLE GAMBLE
TO MAKE ME BACK OFF
I CAN'T NOT BACK OFF

AKAGI ...
NOW NOW
ISN'T THAT RIGHT? AKAGI
YOU COVER IT UP WITH SOME PHILOSOPHY
AFTER THAT
YOU'RE A GENIUS AT THAT
A MAN FROM THE PAST LIKE ME CAN UNDERSTAND...
WHAT YOU SAID...
OI
BUT THAT TIME IS PAST
YES
... ...
ﾋｲ...
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT TOO

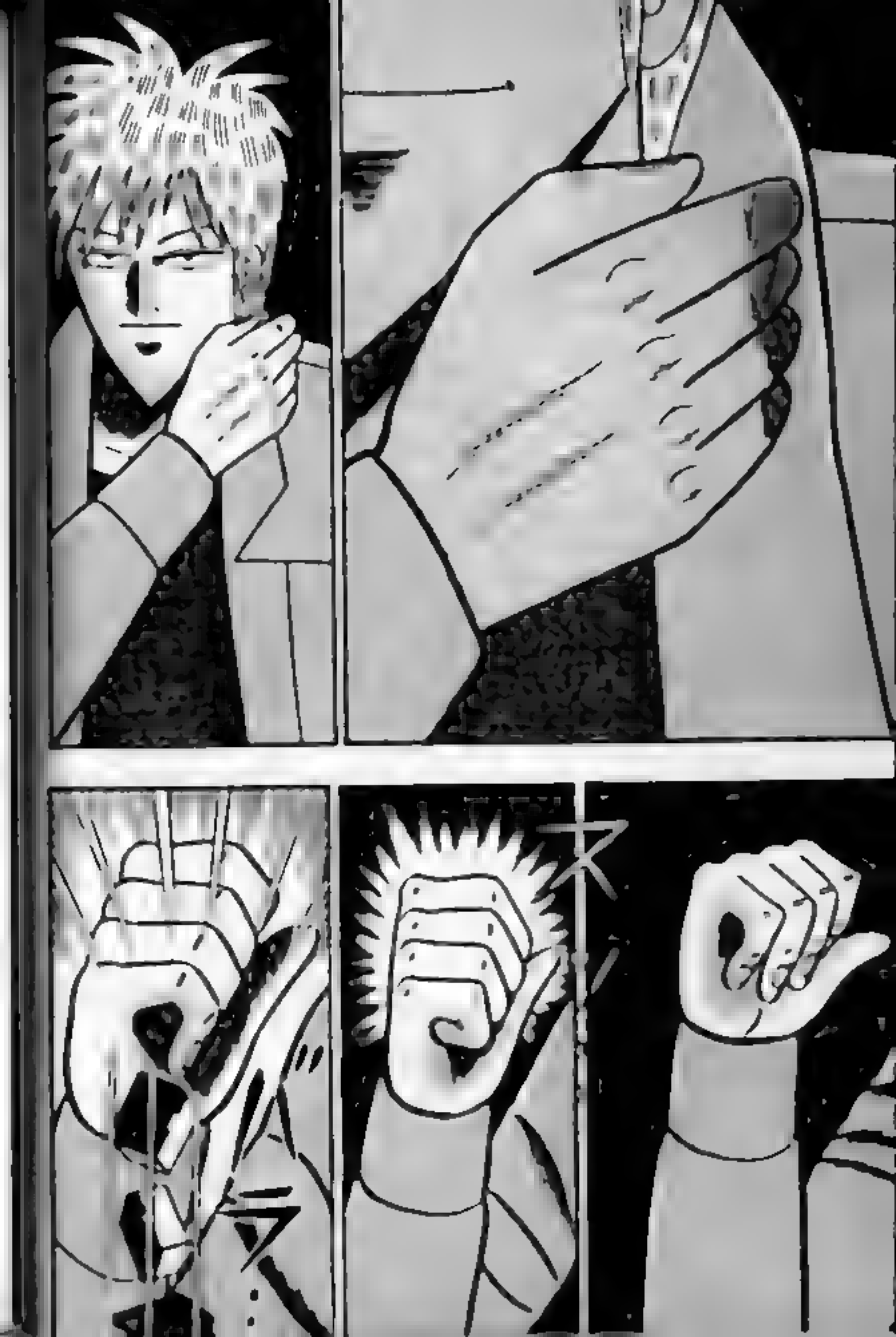
NO LONGER HOLDS FOR ANY-ONE
GAMBLING ANYTHING ELSE
EVERYTHING IS ABOUT MONEY NOW
FU FU ...
IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T ALWAYS WIN
IT'S FINE TO LOSE
MONEY COMES AND GOES
THAT'S WHY I STRONGLY APPROVE OF THIS MAN
GOOD
BOSS
AS LONG AS YOUR AVERAGE WINNINGS ARE GOOD

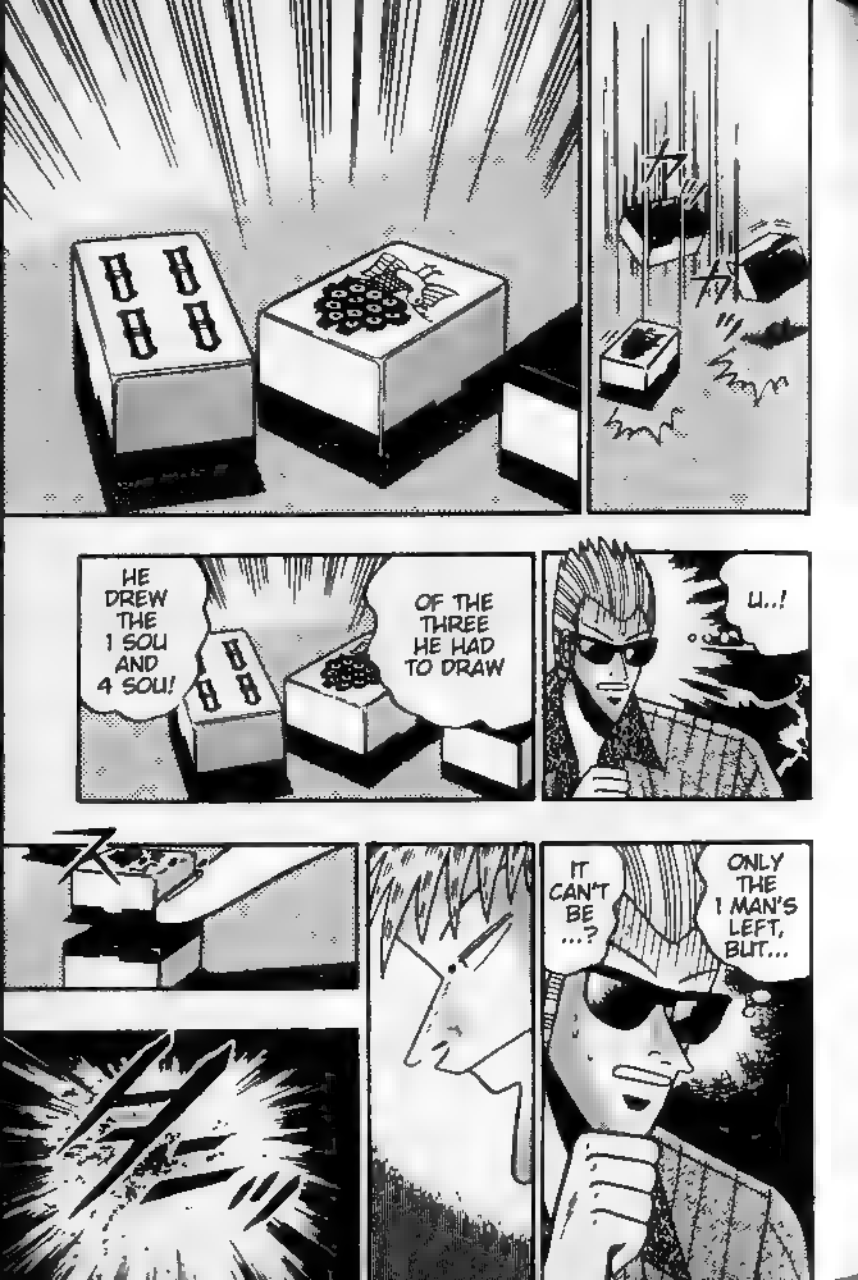
ZAWA...
ざわ・
...
IT'S YOUR PAYDAY TODAY ...?
I HEARD THAT
...TWO MIL-LION
FUFU ...
LET'S DO IT THIS WAY
I WISH TO SEE IT... YOUR CAPA-BILITY
WHY DON'T YOU PIT ALL OF THAT
THE DIFF-ERENCE IN CASH REFLECTS THE CHANCE
IT'S LIKE BETTING ON A HORSE
ゴソ

EH?
THIS HO-RSE
I'LL BET ON IT
IM-POSS-IBLE!
I DON'T GET IT...
THIS GAMBLE ...
WHY DID HE TAKE IT UP?
YOU'VE PUSHED IT TOO FAR...
PERHAPS HE'S BLINDED BY HIS PAST ABILITY
THERE'S A LOT OF MONEY, BUT...?
TO GET THE 1 SOU, 4 SOU AND 1 MAN FROM AMONG NINE TILES
WHAT A FOOL!
DOES HE THINK HE CAN REVIVE HIS LEGEND?
THE CHANCES ARE BELOW 3%

DIFF-
ERENT?
...
EH?
...
THIS
MAN IS
DIFF-
ERENT
...

YEP
YOU THINK YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THE TILES?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
KU KU ...
EH...?
ZAWA...
WITHOUT SENSES LIKE THAT
I COULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED
THESE SIX YEARS ...




HE DREW THE 1 SOU AND 4 SOU!
OF THE THREE HE HAD TO DRAW
U..!
IT CAN'T BE ...?
ONLY THE 1 MAN'S LEFT, BUT...

U...
UOOO
HE GOT THEM!
IT CAN'T BE...
HOO ...
THE THREE TILES
HOW CAN IT BE ...!
IT, IT CAN'T BE

WELL THEN, BOSS
FUFU ...
I'LL BE TAKING THIS
EXCUSE ME
U!
...
AKAGI...
BYE ...
WAIT!

FUFU...
WHAT? SHOUTING SO LOUDLY ...
THERE'S A 1 SOU, 4 SOU AND 1 MAN MISSING
THEIR ARRANGE-MENT'S SLIGHTLY OFF...
YOU TOOK THEM
YOU BAS-TARD
FROM THE OPEN TILES
I NEARLY MISSED IT
THAT WAS CLOSE

THE REAL TILES ARE STILL IN YOUR HAND
AM I RIGHT, AKAGI!
SO YOU NOT-ICED
HM-PH
IT'S A BASIC TRICK
BUT STILL EFFECTIVE WHEN APPLIED IN REAL SITUATIONS
SHUT UP!
PROB-ABILITY AND ALL THAT
BETTER THAN YOUR CALCU-LATIONS
EH...?
DON'T WORRY, NANGOU-SAN
"CLA-TTER"
AKAGI...
FU FU ...
LEAVE THE MONEY BEHIND
YOU DIDN'T DRAW THE THREE TILES

HAA?
SEE YOU
AKAGI
"SEE YOU"?
OI!
EH..?

1 SOU, 4 SOU AND 1 MAN
HE GOT THEM ...
U!
EH?
HE DID DRAW THEM!
AKAGI DIDN'T NEED TO SWITCH THE TILES...
THE REMAINING SIX TILES WILL TELL THE TRUTH
NO MATTER WHAT TRICK HE USED
DON'T TELL ME YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT!
BUT THIS IS...!
WHAT THE HELL, IT CAN'T BE

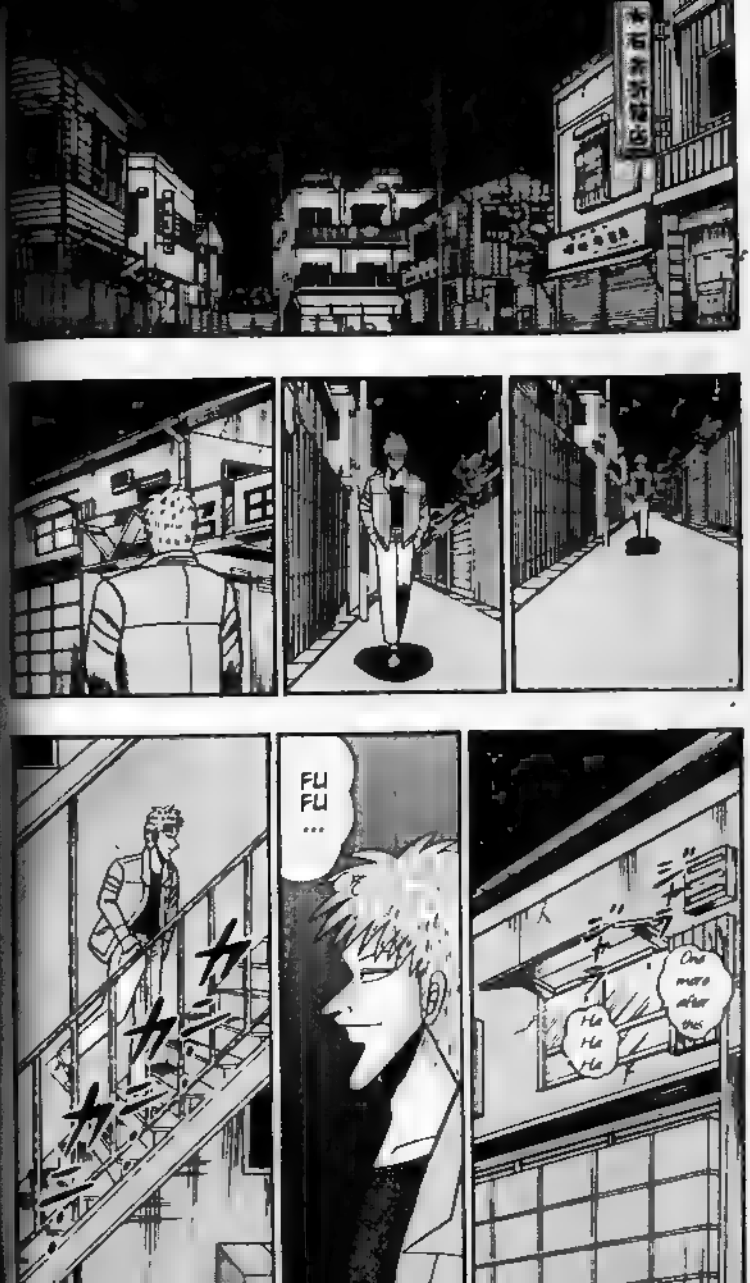
THE SIX TILES LEFT
IF AKAGI SUCCEEDED
WOULD BE THESE SIX...
BELOW 3%...
HOW CAN IT BE!
HOW CAN IT BE!

THE 1 SOU, 4 SOU AND 1 MAN!
THEY AREN'T HERE!

...
IM-POS-SIBLE
...
LEAVE HIM BE
DON'T GET INVOLVED
THAT'S WHY
WITH THAT MAN
THAT GUY IS DIFFERENT!
DON'T DELIBERATELY STEP ON THE TIGER'S TAIL
...

CHAPTER 32: SIN

第32話 悪業


FU
FU
...
Ha
Ha
Ha
One more after this!

THAT'S IT, OSAMU
OOPS
RIICHI, TANYAO IPEKOU
DORA, DORA!
FUFU ...
...I'D BEEN TRYING SO HARD FOR THE TOP...
I READ YOU AND GAVE CHASE
SO IT ENDED UP LIKE THIS
HAA ...
EHHH?
HA HA HA!

YOU'RE SURE LATE
YO
TOO BAD THIS HANCHAN IS END-ING
IT'S AL-READY FIVE
IF YOU WERE BACK A LITTLE EARLIER WE COULD HAVE HAD SOME FUN
YEAH
...HA HA...
ALL OF IT...
HOW IS IT?

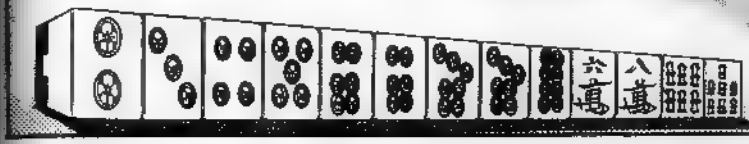
THEY'VE TAKEN ALMOST ALL OF MY PAY
...
HMPH
ARE LOSING?
BOTH OSAMU AND THAT PUNK KAWA-SHIMA
KA-WA-SHI-MA
...
I SEE ...
FUFU ...

THIS IS A TRICK
IF ONLY OSAMU LOSES
IT WOULD SEEM LIKE THE THREE ARE GANGING UP ON HIM
TO AVOID THAT ...
THEY HAVE ONE AMONG THEM LOSE
THAT'D BE THAT KAWASHIMA...
WITH THAT, THESE THREE
IGNORE THEIR OWN WINS AND LOSSES AND SPLIT OSAMU'S PAY AMONG THEMSELVES
SOUTH 3RD ROUND
THIS SURE IS HEATED
I'VE BEEN LOSING ...
CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE
IT'S RIDICULOUS!
FUFU ...
WELL, DON'T BE SO DOWN
MATCHES ARE LIKE THAT
KEH!
FUFU... I'LL BE CALLING THAT 4 MAN
PON!

WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAND?
OIOI ...
I TOOK ONLY 8000 FROM YOU JUST NOW
I STILL CAN'T AIM FOR THE TOP
BUCK UP, OSAMU
FU FU ...
YOU'RE SURE GOING WELL
FUFU... RELAX
OR HE'LL GET COCKY...
EH ...
BUT YOU'RE IN SECOND PLACE, WHICH IS PERFECT
HMM?
LIKE HELL I'D BE-LIEVE THAT
YOU HAVE A TRASH HAND?
IT'S TRASH
YOU WON'T DEAL INTO MY HAND ANYWAY
KEH!

バラッ...
THAT'S THE ONE!
SORRY, KAWA-SHIMA.
I CAN'T DO IT!
KAA!
NAN, TOI TOI, 5200
THEY'RE DOING THAT...
KU KU ...
WELL, THIS COMBI-NATION PLAY IS SIMPLE
AT ANY RATE
THEIR CONVER-SATION'S CON-FIRMED IT

PON!
KEH!
AND HE CUTS THE 4 (SHI) MAN (MA)
MAA, DON'T BE SO DOWN
FU FU ...
SHOUBU ARE LIKE THAT
MAA: WELL/NOW NOW
SHOUBU: MATCHES
FUFU... SORRY, KAWA-SHIMA
THAT'S THE ONE!
YOUR TRASH HAND ...
AND HE CUTS THE 5 (GO) SOU (SO)
IT'S A GOMI HAND
SOUSOU, YOU WOULDN'T DEAL INTO MY HAND
SOUSOU: YEAH/HEH
GOMI: SHIT/TRASH/CRAP
...I CAN'T SYMP-ATHISE ...
AND HE HASN'T CAUGHT ON THIS TRICK
...IT'S BEEN SIX ROUNDS
FUFU ...
...
NAT-URALLY HE'S BEING TOYED WITH



THIS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND THE TOP 8000...

DAMN IT!

I HAD A GOOD HAND BUT I COULDN'T GET INTO A WINNING POSITION FOR 6 TURNS

KU KU ...

I DON'T GET IT...

IT WAS FINE IF ANYONE OTHER THAN OSAMU TOOK THE TOP

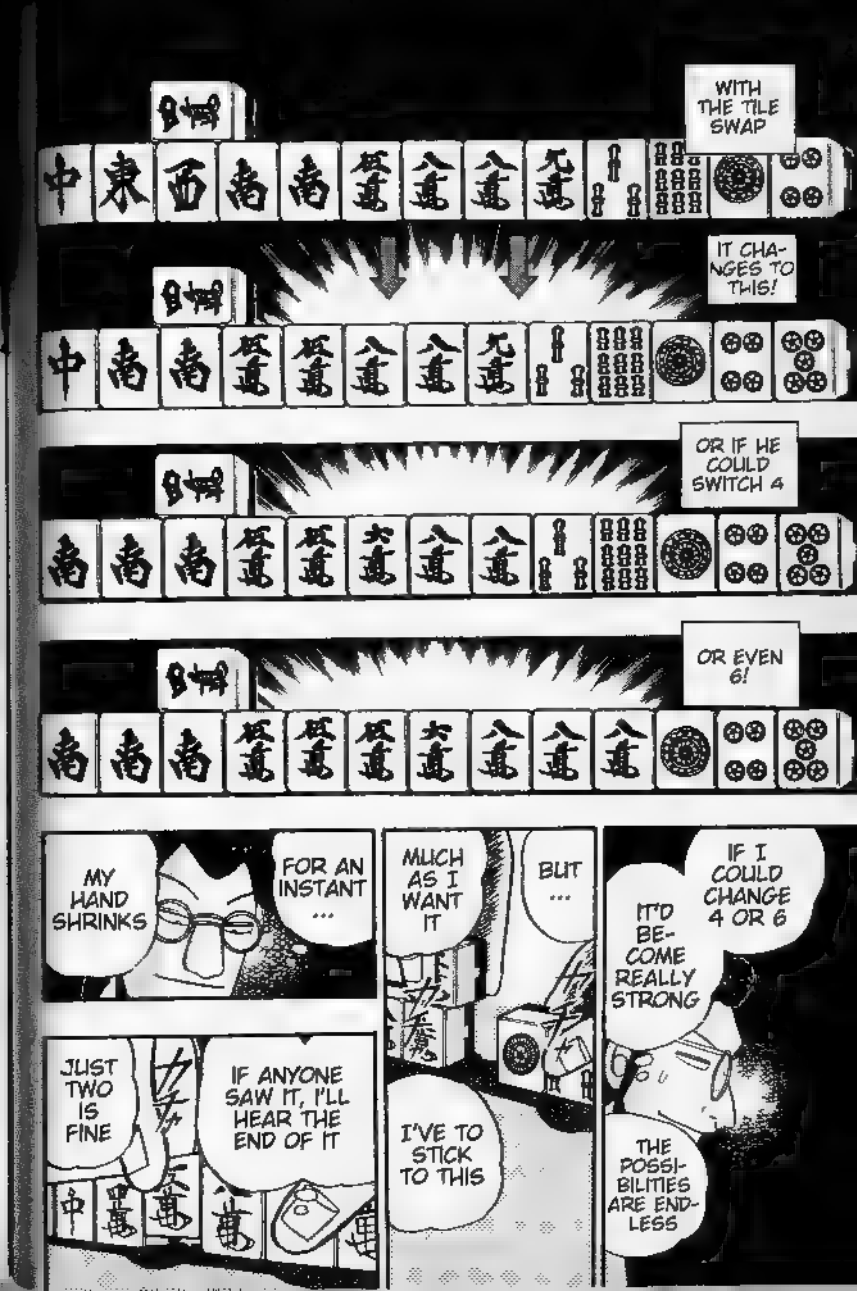
OSAMU'S HAND ENDED UP LIKE BEFORE

SO THE GAME WENT BACK AND FORTH

IN THE NEXT ROUND IT MERCILESSLY HASTENED THE WIN

THIS TRICK WAS USED WHEN OSAMU WAS THE DEALER

TILE SOR-TING
IN THE OPEN-ING
WHILE THE REST WERE FOCUSING ON THEIR HANDS
THE DEALER IS KAWA-SHIMA
SOUTH 3RD ROUND ALL LAST
STA-CKS
CO-VERS
FIRST HE PLACES UNWANTED TILES ON THE LEFT
HE CHE-ATS
AND PLACES THE TWO ON THE LEFT
DRAWS TWO FROM THE RIGHT
WHILE REACH-ING FOR HIS WALL
AND THEN
CALLED "BUKKO-NUKI"
IT'S A SIMPLE YET EFF-ECTIVE TRICK
GAVE HIM SOME GOOD TILES
THE RIGHT SIDE


WITH THE TILE SWAP
IT CHANGES TO THIS!
OR IF HE COULD SWITCH 4
OR EVEN 6!
MY HAND SHRINKS
FOR AN INSTANT ...
JUST TWO IS FINE
IF ANYONE SAW IT, I'LL HEAR THE END OF IT
MUCH AS I WANT IT
BUT ...
I'VE TO STICK TO THIS
IF I COULD CHANGE 4 OR 6
IT'D BECOME REALLY STRONG
THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

I'LL BE CAUGHT
IF I KEPT SWITCH-ING EACH ROUND
THIS HAND IS GOOD ENOUGH ANYWAY
HE SHOULD HAVE SOME SENSE
WELL... WHEN ONE DOES THIS
EH?
...
IT'S JUST ME ...
NO ...
...
...DID HE NOTICE?...

...
FU FU ...
I'M STILL NOT CONFI-DENT OF THIS TRICK
I'M IMAGINING THINGS
SO AT THAT ONE GLANCE ...
CHOSE TO KEEP SILENT
HE NO-TICED BUT
OF COURSE AKAGI SAW
IF FOR SOME REASON THEIR HANDS WERE BAD
THEY INTEND TO END IT THIS ROUND
THE TRIO WILL NOT DECLARE TENPAI
WITH THIS BEING ALL LAST

HIS HAND REFUSES TO FORM
IS STRUGGLING
ON THE OTHER SIDE, OSAMU
OF SURVIVAL
FOR THE CHANCE
STILL, HE PERSISTS TOWARDS HIS GOAL
WHEN IT WAS ALMOST OVER...
AND THEN IT CAME TO HIM

14TH TURN!

HE DIDN'T GET IT IN THE END

I'LL HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE IN THE NEXT ROUND

I DOUBT A 5 MAN WILL APPEAR ON THE LAST DRAW

BUT IF HE CAN GET A TENPAI, THEN

...THE REST DEPENDS ON KAWA-SHIMA-SAN

HE CALLED THE NAN NEAR THE END... IT SHOULD BE FINE

IT'LL BE HARD

...I'VE TO WAIT ON THE DORA INDI-CATOR

...

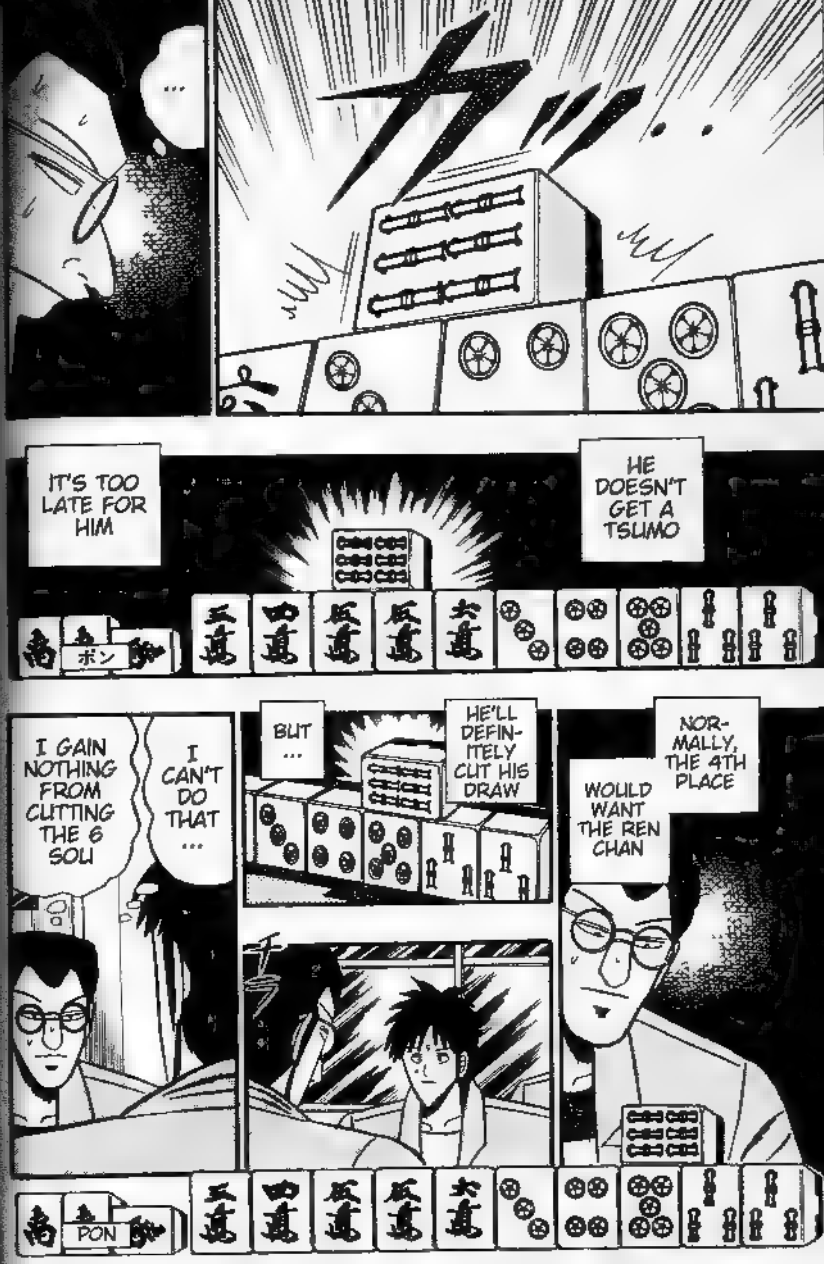
I CAN ONLY TSUMO ...

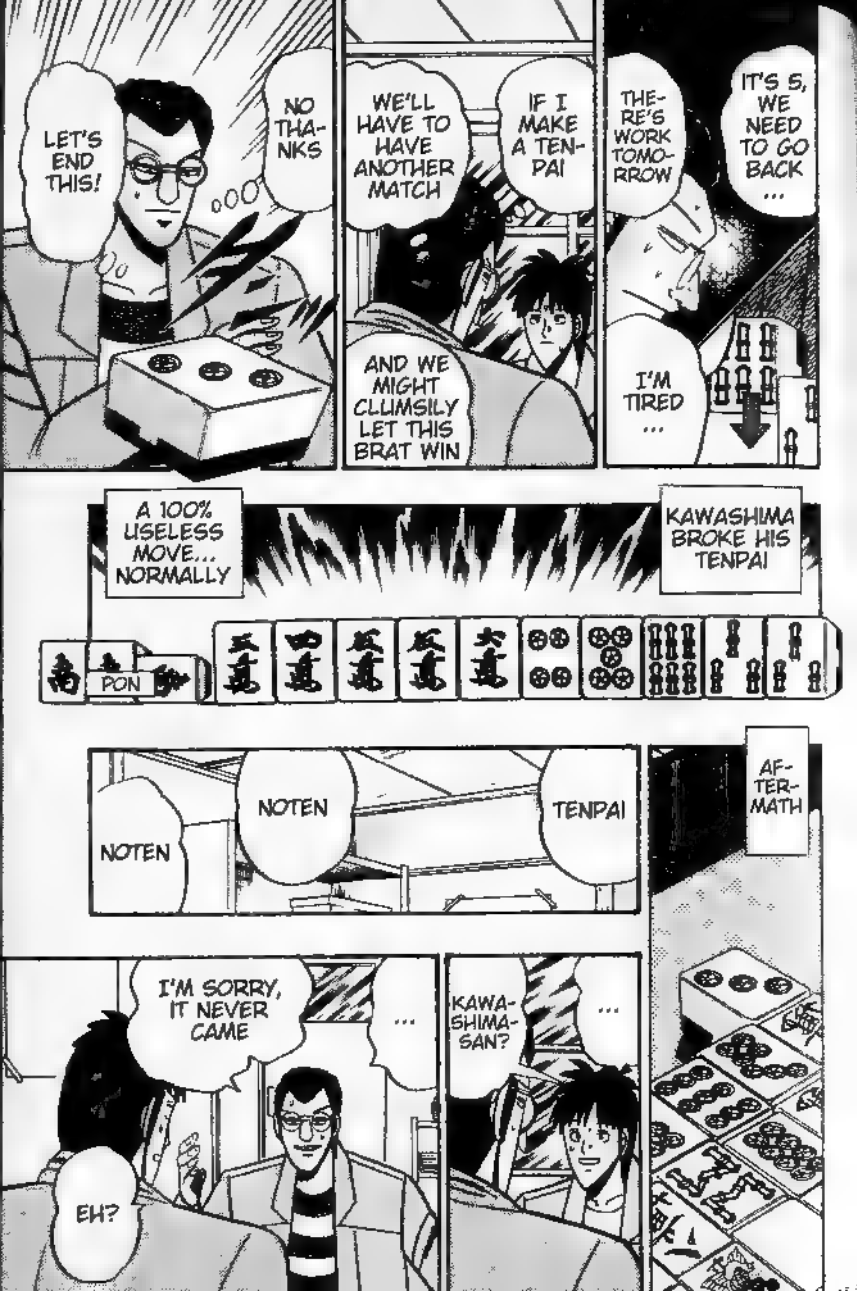
THAT HOPE WAS THIN

BUT

SANSHOKU, IPPEKOU, DORA 1 MANGAN

I GOT IT!


...
IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM
HE DOESN'T GET A TSUMO
ポン
I GAIN NOTHING FROM CUTTING THE 6 SOU
I CAN'T DO THAT ...
BUT ...
HE'LL DEFINITELY CUT HIS DRAW
NORMALLY, THE 4TH PLACE WOULD WANT THE REN CHAN
PON


LET'S END THIS!
NO THANKS
WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE ANOTHER MATCH
IF I MAKE A TENPAI
AND WE MIGHT CLUMSILY LET THIS BRAT WIN
THERE'S WORK TOMORROW
IT'S 5, WE NEED TO GO BACK ...
I'M TIRED ...
A 100% USELESS MOVE... NORMALLY
KAWASHIMA BROKE HIS TENPAI
PON
NOTEN
NOTEN
TENPAI
AFTERMATH
I'M SORRY, IT NEVER CAME
...
EH?
KAWASHIMA-SAN?
...

I CAN'T SHOW MY HAND ...
ハァ...
WHY WOULD I LIE
R-REALLY!?
YEAH ...
NOTEN...?
... DAMN IT...
... WELL, THAT'S TRUE BUT...
HAA ...
TRY AND UNDERSTAND HOW I'M FEELING!
I FUCKED UP

HOO
...
...
I'M SORRY
I SHOULD HAVE PLAYED
...
NO
AKAGI-SAN ISN'T AT FAULT
I BROUGHT THIS UPON MYSELF
...
HMM
...
YOU SAY GOOD THINGS

I'LL BE TAKING THIS
THEN ...
FUWAA, I NEED SOME SLEEP ...
カカ
110
NO NEED TO BE SHY
IT'S FINE, JUST ACCEPT IT
...
I WON'T TAKE IT
YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT MONEY
I'M RETURNING A LITTLE
DON'T BE STUBBORN!
JUST TAKE IT BACK
OSAMU

...
I'M NOT TA-KING IT
SEN-PAIS ...
DO AS YOU WISH!
KEH!
WE'RE TIRED
A MATCH ...
CARE TO HAVE A MATCH WITH ME?
WE NEED TO SLEEP TONIGHT ...
TO-MOR-ROW

11"
BARE-LY A MINUTE
WHAT... IT WON'T TAKE LONG
NAH
AKA-GI!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT MONEY
...
...
EH!?
A REAL GAMBLE ...
LET'S HAVE A GAMBLE ...
ARE YOU MORE AWAKE NOW?
KU KU ...
SEN-PAIS ...

ざわ…
ざわ
ZAWA... ZAWA... ZAWA...
EH!?
WHY'RE YOU CARRYING SUCH A HUGE SUM OF MONEY
FUFU …
IS GOING ON?
JUST WHAT
IT'S REALLY 2 MIL...
IT'S REAL …
HEEE
SENPAIS …
YOU CAN HAPPILY TAKE IT ALL
IF YOU WIN THIS GAMBLE
THAT'S WHY I'M WILLING TO PART WITH IT
NO WAY
KU KU …
ROB-BERY …?
IT WAS EASY MONEY
I HAD A LITTLE GAMBLE LAST NIGHT

CHAPTER 33: DISASTER

第33話 災厄

ZAWA... ZAWA...

THIS IS OSAMU'S HAND

パタ・・

LET'S SAY ...HOW ABOUT THIS

...

FROM THE 14 TILES OF THE DEAD WALL

WE'LL BET IF I CAN WIN BY DRAWING TWICE

WITH THIS HAND

IT'S A CLOSED WAIT FOR 5 MAN

HMPH!

...

YOU WANTED SOME KIND OF GAMBLE?

THAT'S RIGHT

LET'S PUT THIS ASIDE FIRST

ざわ ざわ・・

...

YOUR WINNINGS, THE PAY YOU RECEIVED,
WHEN THAT HAPPENS ...
AS WELL AS ALL YOUR SAVINGS UP TO NOW
IT'S MY WIN
BUT IF I COMPLETE THE HAND WITHIN 2 DRAWS
YOU CAN TAKE THE 2 MILLION
IF I DON'T GET IT, YOU WIN, SENPAIS
ZAWA...
ざわ..
...
...
EH?
WHICH ARE, YOUR BANK-BOOKS AND SIGNATURES
LOOK AT THE TABLE
BUT THERE'S ONE DIFFERENCE THIS TIME...
EH?
NO ONE WILL ACCEPT A GAMBLE INVOLVING THEIR LIFE SAVINGS
THAT'S NATURAL
WHAT SHOULD WE DO...
...WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

OSAMU'S WAIT IS A 5 MAN
TWO ARE IN MY HAND
ONE HAS BEEN DISCARDED BY FURUYA
ABOUT THAT ...
ONE IS THE DORA INDI-CATOR
IN SHORT, YOU CAN SEE ALL OF THEM
THEN...
AH...
FUFU ...
THIS KID CAN'T SEE THE TILES IN MY HAND, AND THINKS THEY'RE IN THE WALL
THAT'S IT
BUT HE'S GOT IT WRONG
AKAGI
THIS IS INTERE-STING, WE'LL ACCEPT THE BET
FUFU ...
...
KU KU KU ...

GAMBLE!

IF AKAGI DRAWS IT, HE WINS

IF HE DOESN'T, KAWA-SHIMA'S TRIO WINS

FROM THE 14 DEAD WALL TILES

HE'D DRAW TWICE

WHETHER HE CAN WIN THE CLOSED WAIT ON 5 MAN!

BET ALL THEIR SAVINGS, ABOUT 300K

KAWA-SHIMA'S TRIO

THE 2 MILLI-ON, IS USED TO BET

WHAT AKAGI RECEIVED FROM THE KAWADA GROUP

ARE ALREADY GONE...

THE 5 MAN YOU WANT

YOU WON'T GET WHAT YOU WANT

BE IT TWO TIMES OR TEN TIMES

ID-IOT ...

KU KU ...

OSAMU'S HAND

THE BET IS ON

EH?
...
DOES HIS FIRST DRAW
AKA-GI
IDIOT!
I...
TSUMO
YOU ...
I CAN'T?
YOU CAN'T DRAW THE DORA INDICATOR!
HUH?

I'LL PUT IT BACK
チャ
I WAS JUST JOKING
DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE
NO WAY IN HELL AM I ACCEPTING THAT!
DRAWING A TILE YOU CAN SEE
KU KU KU
...
FUFU ...
JUST GET ON WITH THE REST...
YOU ...
I WON'T TRY THAT AGAIN
AL-RIGHT, LET'S REDO IT
EHH ...?
スーッ
MY REAL SHOW STARTS HERE!
チャ
六萬
西
西

AKAGI CUTS

CLOSED WAIT ON 5 MAN

DUAL WAIT ON 6 MAN/XIA

ZAWA ZAWA...

"WHAT SHOULD WE DO," YOU SAY...

WHAT SHO-ULD WE DO?

ざわざわ

GU...

THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT

IT'S THE SLEEP-ING TRUMP

ONE OF THAT HAS BEEN DISCARDED BY FURUYA

IT'S A WAIT ON THE XIA...

THE 6 MAN ARE GONE DUE TO FURUYA'S AND MY HAND

XIA, 6 MAN SHABO ...

THE LAST TWO 5 MANS ARE IN YOUR HAND

FOR STAR-TERS

THAT OF COURSE INCLUDED CUTTING

I'M WON'T YIELD ON THIS...

KU KU... WHEN I SAID I'D DRAW TWICE

WAIT YOU!

W-

WHO SAID YOU COULD CHANGE WAITS!

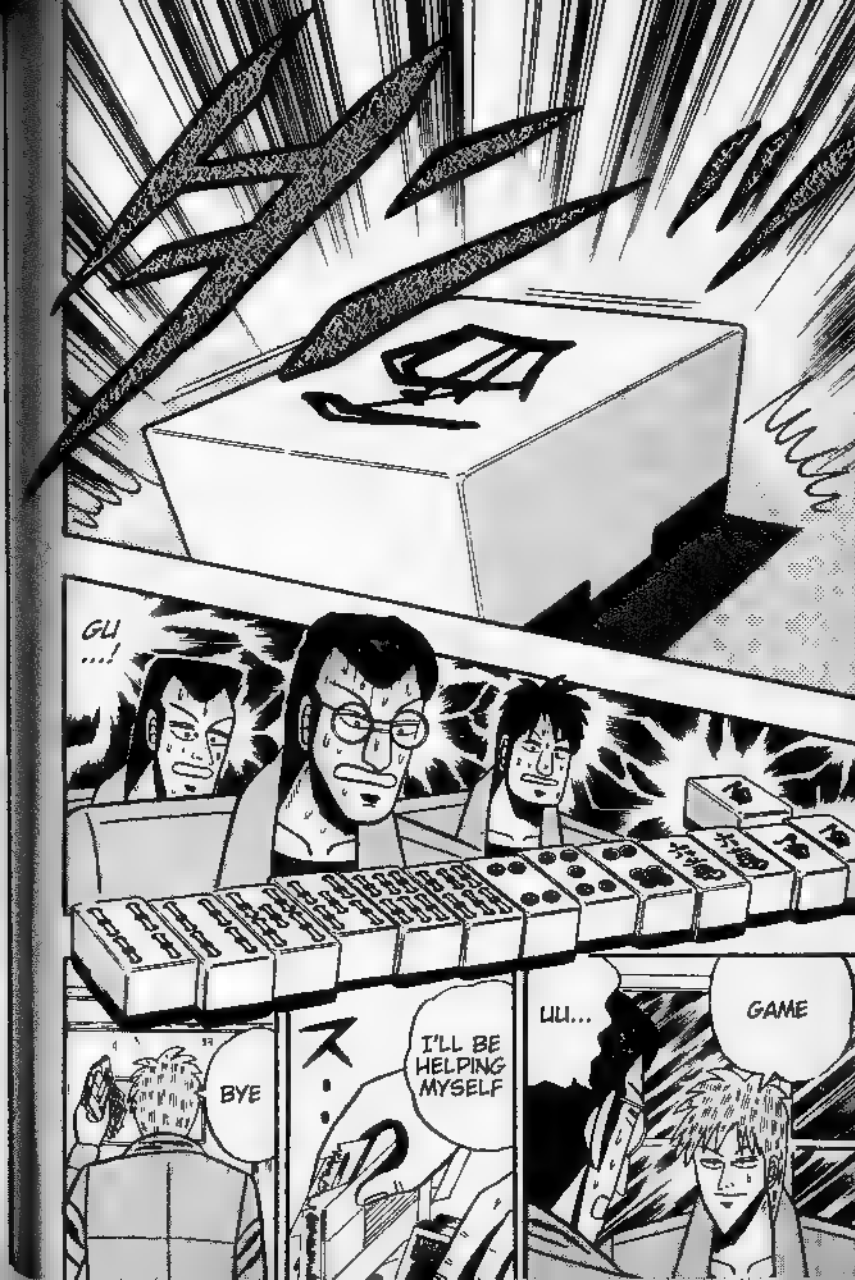
IF I DON'T CUT THIS WILL HARDLY BE A GAMBLE

IS SHAME-LESS

TO TRY AND EARN BIG MONEY AT ZERO RISK

...
THE BET RATIO IS 200 TO 30!
IT'S 1-IN-12
THE HIDDEN TRUMP ... WITHIN THE 12 TILES ...
OUR OVER-WHELMING ADVANTAGE IN THIS GAMBLE HASN'T CHANGED
HE WON'T DRAW IT... IT'S 1-IN-12
YEAH ...
SHOULD WE?
DRAW!
GO ON
I'LL ALLOW IT...
ドカッ
HERE I GO!
KU KU ...
...
YOU HAVE ONLY ONE DRAW LEFT

1/12 FOR THE XIA
1/12
HE WON'T DRAW IT
...
...YES...
THEY WERE WORD TILES
THEY WERE TONG AND XIA!
THE TILES I PUT BACK
WHEN I DID THE BUKKO-NUKI
THAT'S...
HE SAW IT? THE BUKKO-NUKI...
COULD IT BE...
THEN THE ODDS ARE 1/2


GU ...!
UU...
GAME
I'LL BE HELPING MYSELF
BYE

バタン
I DON'T KNOW EITHER...
THAT SORT OF THING ...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, KAWASHIMA... MY SAVINGS...
"WHAT SHOULD WE DO", YOU SAY...
DON'T "AAA"!
AAA...
UU...

YES
OSAMU ?
SHARE ?
THAT'S YOUR SHARE
HERE'S SOME-THING FOR YOU
GOOD TIMING
HAA ...

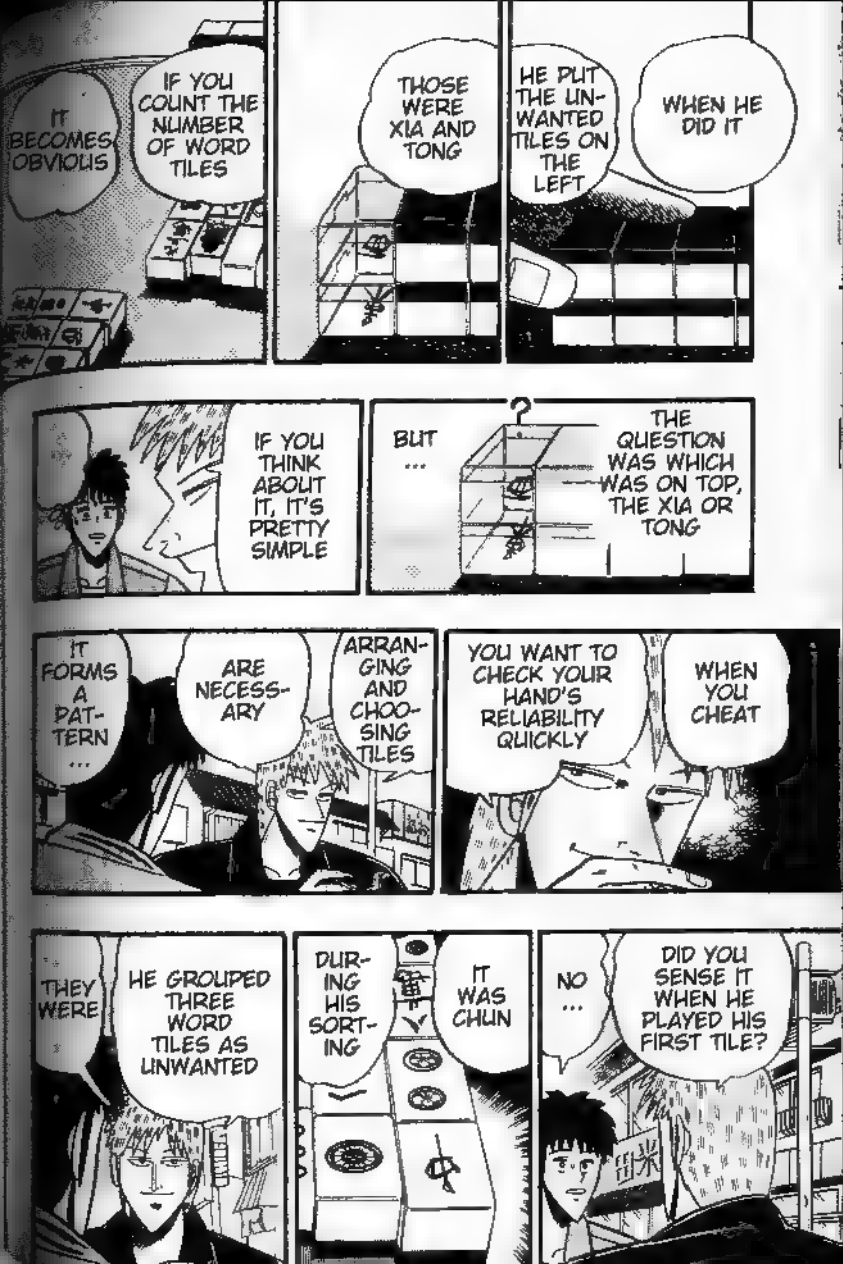
HAA ...
I USED YOUR HAND TO WIN
IT IS
IS IT FINE ...?
THINK OF IT AS A RENTAL FEE
I'M QUIT-TING
NO-WHERE
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
EH?
BYE NOW ...
WA-
PLEASE WAIT!
YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE NOW
FUFU ...
EEH!?

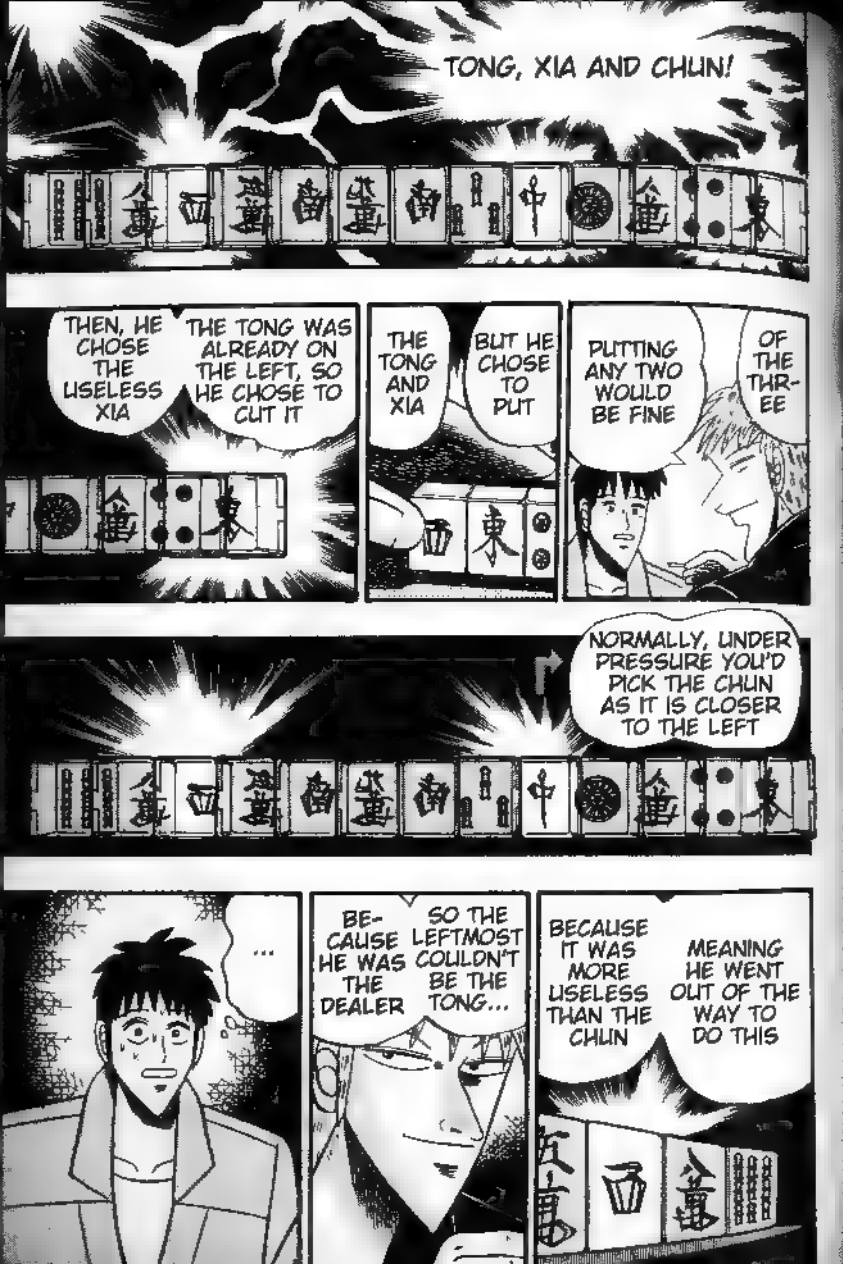
ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING?
...YES!
HM?
COULD I ASK ONE THING?
THEN, THAT ...
ERM
THAT'S OBVIOUS
IT WASN'T COINCIDENTAL
FUFU ...
OR WAS THERE SOME KIND OF TRICK INVOLVED?
DID YOU REALLY DRAW THEM BY CHANCE?
THE 2 DRAWS JUST NOW

I THEN TOOK A 6 MAN
I SWITCHED IT, THEN PUT THE WALL TILE IN THE POND
AT THAT TIME EVERYONE WAS FOCUSED ON THE 5 MAN
NO ONE NOTICED A MISSING 6 MAN, OR ANY CHANGES IN THE POND
THEY DIDN'T CATCH IT... IT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL BLIND SPOT
AT FIRST I DREW THAT 5 MAN, RIGHT?
YES ...
I RETURNED IT WHEN KAWASHIMA OBJECTED
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I SWAPPED A TILE
HUMANS UNCONSCIOUSLY RAISE THEIR GUARD WHEN YOU DRAW
BUT THEY LET IT DOWN WHEN YOU RETURN IT
THEY TURN IT OFF, AND LOSE THEIR FOCUS FOR A MOMENT
WAS STOLEN FROM THE POND
THE 6 MAN
I SWAPPED A WALL TILE WITH IT
SWAPPED ...
I DIDN'T SEE IT AT ALL...
FUFU...

HAA...
INDEED...
I COMPLETELY MISSED IT
BUT...
EVEN THOUGH YOU SWAPPED THE 6 MAN
AND DREW IT
WHAT ABOUT THE XIA?
THE XIA WAS ON KAWASHIMA-SENPAI'S WALL
AKAGI-SAN COULDN'T HAVE TOUCHED IT...
YOU COULDN'T TOUCH IT
SO THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR YOU TO SWITCH A TILE
FUFU...
IT'S TRUE THAT I COULDN'T PULL OFF ANY TRICKS FOR THE XIA
THAT SAID...
THERE WAS NO NEED TO
EH...?

...BUKKO-NUKI?
HE KEPT USING BUKKO-NUKI
DURING THAT MAH-JONG SES-SION
?
YOU COULD SAY THAT KAWASHIMA SWITCHED IT FOR ME
DURING THE TILE ARRANGING
ADD TWO TO THE LEFT, AND
MOVE TO HIS WALL
HE'D PUT HIS UN-WANTED TILES ON HIS LEFT
HAA...
KAWASHIMA KEPT USING THAT TRICK DURING THE HANCHAN
TAKE TWO LESS USE-LESS ONES FROM THE RIGHT


IT BECOMES OBVIOUS
IF YOU COUNT THE NUMBER OF WORD TILES
THOSE WERE XIA AND TONG
HE PUT THE UN-WANTED TILES ON THE LEFT
WHEN HE DID IT
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE
BUT ...
THE QUESTION WAS WHICH WAS ON TOP, THE XIA OR TONG
IT FORMS A PAT-TERN ...
ARE NECESS-ARY
ARRAN-GING AND CHOO-SING TILES
YOU WANT TO CHECK YOUR HAND'S RELIABILITY QUICKLY
WHEN YOU CHEAT
THEY WERE
HE GROUPED THREE WORD TILES AS UNWANTED
DUR-ING HIS SORT-ING
IT WAS CHUN
NO ...
DID YOU SENSE IT WHEN HE PLAYED HIS FIRST TILE?


TONG, XIA AND CHUN!
THEN, HE CHOSE THE USELESS XIA
THE TONG WAS ALREADY ON THE LEFT, SO HE CHOSE TO CUT IT
THE TONG AND XIA
BUT HE CHOSE TO PUT
PUTTING ANY TWO WOULD BE FINE
OF THE THR-EE
NORMALLY, UNDER PRESSURE YOU'D PICK THE CHUN AS IT IS CLOSER TO THE LEFT
...
BE-CAUSE HE WAS THE DEALER
SO THE LEFTMOST COULDN'T BE THE TONG...
BECAUSE IT WAS MORE USELESS THAN THE CHUN
MEANING HE WENT OUT OF THE WAY TO DO THIS

HAA...
SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?
KU KU KU...
HE PUT THE TILE ON THE LEFT
THE REST IS SIMPLE
AND THE TILE HE MOVED WAS ON TOP... THE XIA
AND STACKED THEM
COVERED THEM,
HII!
EH?...
ISN'T IT, SENPAIS!
KU KU KU...
...
YOU'LL BE SORRY!
YOU FUCKER...

CHAPTER 34: FIRST TREMOR
第34話 予震

ざわ…

FAGGOT …

ざわ…

YOU FUCKER …

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON RIGHT FROM THE START…

ZAWA…

ZAWA…

ス…

ドン

NOT JUST THAT… THE MONEY HE BETTED ON THE SCAM TOO…

NO, KAWA-SHIMA

THAT DIRTY BET IS INVALID-ATED

ANY-WAY,

THAT MONEY TOO

YOU HEARD HIM, AKAGI

THE 2 MILLION YOU BETTED WITH…

OH YEAH

2 MIL-LION …

RETURN US OUR MONEY!

WE'D HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH YOU...
ざわ・・・
ZAWA...
OF COU-RSE
IF YOU HAD TALKED BACK
SEEMS LIKE YOU UNDER-STAND
EH?
SAME TO YOU

EH!?
YOU DAMN-
YOU

HEE?
ナデッ
I'LL LET YOU OFF
HIIII!!
BYE...
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU
IN RETURN, CLEAN THIS MESS UP

...
HAA...
I BEG OF YOU!
...?
PLEASE LET ME FOLLOW YOU!
I'M COMING TOO
EH?
A...
AKAGI-SAN!

Coffee House
Coffee ふるはうす
鉄
...
I WISH TO BE LIKE AKAGI-SAN
PLEASE LET ME STAY WITH YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING...
...
I'M PRE-PARED
...
...
YOU'LL BE ENTANGLED IN MY AFFAIRS...
IF YOU FOLLOW ME

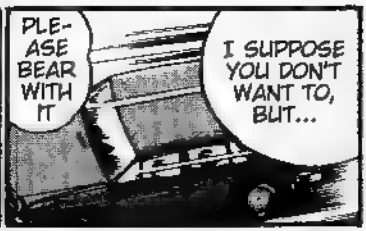
カラン
ゾロ ゾロ
WH-WHA-WHAT?
THESE PEOPLE ARE...
EH!?
AKAGI-SAN
EH?

ブロロロ

A MATCH BETWEEN YOU AND THE FAKE
HE WANTS TO SEE, BY ALL MEANS,

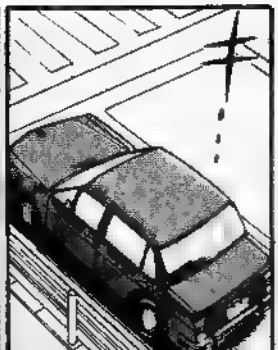
THAT WE PURSUE YOU
THE BOSS INSISTED

IF HE WANTS TO SEE IT, HE WILL SEE IT
HE'S YAKUZA AFTER ALL

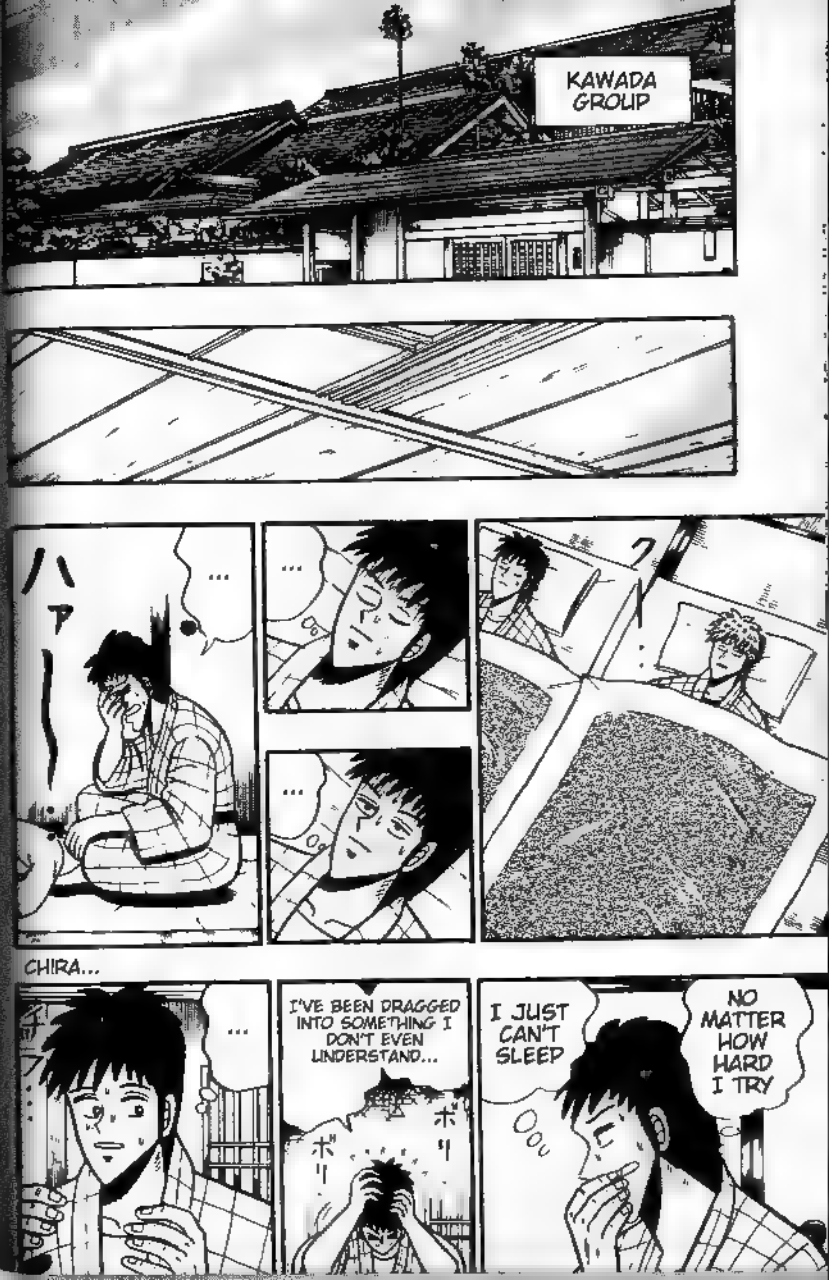

PLE-ASE BEAR WITH IT
I SUPPOSE YOU DON'T WANT TO, BUT...

...
...

SO YOU OUGHT TO REST
WE'LL HAVE SOME SPARE TIME
YOUR MATCH WILL BE AT NIGHT



ER, ERM...
...
ア～！
そっ…
...
G-
GANG!?
TO THE GANG
...
WHERE...
SO, WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
ABOUT THAT...
THEN...
A... AKAGI-SAN...
I SEE...
YOU COULD SAY THAT
EH?
EEH!?
...
KID-NAP-PED...
KIDNAPPED?
KID-NAPPED...?
HAVE WE BEEN


KAWADA GROUP
ハァー…
…
…
…
?
CHIRA...
…
I'VE BEEN DRAGGED INTO SOMETHING I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND...
ポリ
ポリ
I JUST CAN'T SLEEP
Ooo
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY

HE'S DIFF-ERENT
COM-PLETELY DIFF-ERENT
...
HOW CAN HE SLEEP...
...
THIS GUY ...
ク！
NIGHT
HIROSE REST-AURANT
IS HAVING A MATCH WITH THE FUJISAWA REP
THAT FAKE AKAGI
カラ
HMPH
WHEN THAT'S DONE, HE'LL HAVE HIS MATCH WITH YOU

FU...

I'LL BE DONE WITH THIS TRASH SOON

THAT'S RIGHT

FUFU ...

HE'S AT THE TOP, WITH A 12000 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 2ND, THE FUJISAWA REP URABE

YOU'LL BE NEXT!

AND THEN, AKAGI

IT'S BEEN THE SAME GAP DIFFERENCE THESE THREE HAN CHANS

I'LL FINISH THIS RIGHT AWAY

JUST WAIT A MINUTE...

HE'S TOPPED THE FIRST TWO

NOW'S THE THIRD'S ALL LAST...

THEY DECIDED TO PLAY 4 HAN CHANS

AH ...

GOOD ...

HOW WAS IT?

GOOD THAT YOU CAME

OH, AKAGI ...

FAKE AKAGI'S HAND!

I HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH A WAIT...

PICKING A FIGHT WITH THE 5-8 MAN WAIT ISN'T GOOD

PLUS, THE DORA IS 5 SOU

I DON'T NEED A RYAN PEI KOU

IT'S ALL LAST, AND I'M ALREADY TOP

JUST THE IPPEKOU WILL SUFFICE!

THIS IS IT! A 3-WAY WAIT ON THE 1 PIN, 4 PIN AND 7 SOU

SO ...

I SHOULD AIM FOR A RYAN PEIKOU ...

NORMALLY, WITH THE 6 SOUS...

I'M GETTING GOOD DRAWS

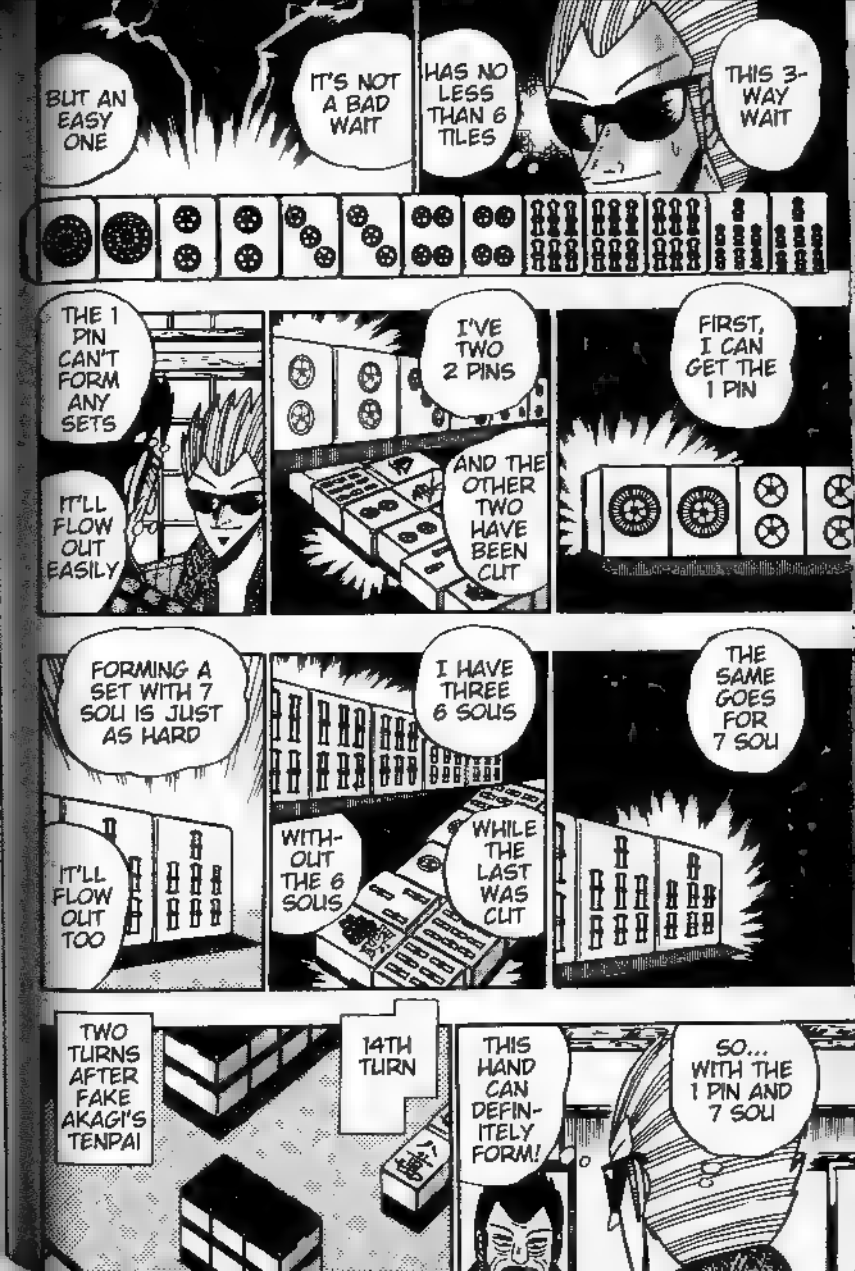
... THE FLOW IS GOOD

THIS SHAPE ...

RYANPEIKOU: TWO PAIRS OF IDENTICAL SEQUENCES

BUT...

SUGGESTS I AIM FOR THE 8 SOU


BUT AN EASY ONE
IT'S NOT A BAD WAIT
HAS NO LESS THAN 6 TILES
THIS 3-WAY WAIT
THE 1 PIN CAN'T FORM ANY SETS
IT'LL FLOW OUT EASILY
I'VE TWO 2 PINS
AND THE OTHER TWO HAVE BEEN CUT
FIRST, I CAN GET THE 1 PIN
FORMING A SET WITH 7 SOU IS JUST AS HARD
IT'LL FLOW OUT TOO
I HAVE THREE 6 SOUS
WITH-OUT THE 6 SOUS
WHILE THE LAST WAS CUT
THE SAME GOES FOR 7 SOU
TWO TURNS AFTER FAKE AKAGI'S TENPAI
14TH TURN
THIS HAND CAN DEFIN-ITELY FORM!
SO... WITH THE 1 PIN AND 7 SOU

RON!
SOUTH
WHEW
SOME-HOW, THE REN CHA-
KU KU KU ...
TOO BAD
URABE -SAN
EH?
YOUR TAN YAO HAND WAS GOOD ...
IT'D HAVE CLINCHED YOU THE REN CHAN, BUT...
NOTHING FOR YOU!

ざわ

ZAWA... ZAWA...

FUFU ...

...

HAA...

...

I CAN ALREADY SEE THE WINNER

3 WINS OUT OF 4 ROUNDS

IT'S AN EASY GAME FROM NOW...

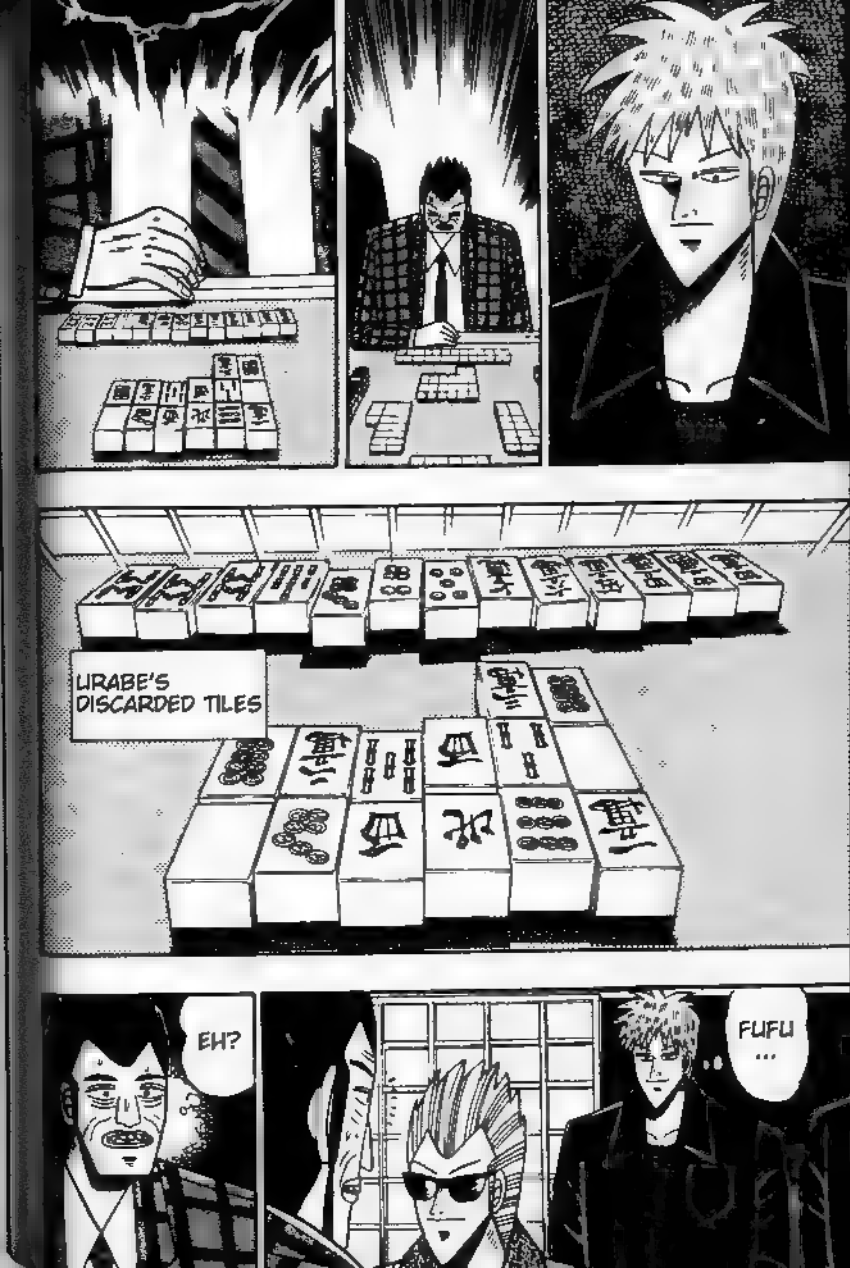
HEAD BUMP ON THE 7 SOU!

HE DID IT!

GU-

3RD CONSE-CUTIVE WIN!

WITH THIS, HE'S TOPPED THIS HAN CHAN SESSION


URABE'S DISCARDED TILES
EH?
FUFU ...

THAT WAY
AA ...
THERE'S A WAITING ROOM, ISN'T THERE?
LET'S GO, ISHIKAWA-SAN
EH?
...
...
WHO KNOWS
WHAT'S WITH THAT KID?
...
WHO KNOWS
SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A MATCH WITH HIM?
AKAGI-SAN
THAT SUNGLASSES MAN SEEMS STRONG
FUFU ...
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY?
"WHO KNOWS"?

...?
EH?
MIGHT BE CRUSHED BEFORE HE EVEN GETS TO ME...
THAT SUN-GLA-SSES
ABOVE?
...
IS ONE OR TWO LEVELS
THAT URABE GUY
ABOVE THE FAKE AKAGI
FROM MY PERSP-ECTIVE
WH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ZAWA...
ざわ・
ABOVE...
BUT HE'S WON THREE TIMES IN A ROW...
J

第35話 予言
CHAPTER 35:
PREDICTION

MY HEART'S BEEN POUNDING...
FUFU
THE MATCH BETWEEN THE TWO AKAGIS...
...
TOO BAD FOR YOU
BUT YASU-OKA
VERY NATURA-LLY...
IF YOU KNEW THE TWO, YOU'D ARRIVE AT THIS
I HAD NO OTHER IDEA
BUT
YES ...
YOUR INTEGRITY DEPENDS ON THE MATCH

THE DIFFER-ENCE BETWEEN THEIR ABILITIES
IT'S THE TRUTH
I CAN'T SAY OTHER-WISE
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY THAT EASILY
IS IT OK TO SAY THAT?
FUFU
THE REAL ONE'LL WIN...
IF THEY FIGHT ...
OIOI
HE SHOULD STILL BE OF USE TO YOU
MY "AKAGI", WHOM YOU HIRED AS THE GROUP'S REP
AFTER THE MATCH, BOSS
BUT
HE ISN'T THE OBEDIENT TYPE OF MAN...
IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL. HE CAN NEVER BE ANYONE'S UNDERLING
THE REAL AKA-GI
... MEAN-ING?

I SEE
FUFU ...
PERHAPS SUCH A GENIUS
DOES EXIST IN THIS WORLD
HOWEVER, ABOUT CHANGING THE REP AFTER THIS MATCH...
I WON'T DO THAT
AS LONG AS HIS ABILITY'S GENUINE ...
...I JUST WANT TO SEE IT
THAT UNOBTAINABLE GEM
KNOWN AS "TALENT" ...
ガラッ
...
THIS WAY
O...

ABOUT THAT, BOSS ...
WE'LL HAVE THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW AKAGIS
AFTER WE WIN THE FUJISAWA GROUP
AND THEN ...
JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER ...
OO... AKAGI
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU CAME
...?
OUR REP MIGHT BE CRUSHED ...
AKAGI SAYS THAT BEFORE THEIR MATCH
YES ...
BUT WE'RE WINNING, AREN'T WE?
EH?
BY THAT URABE ...

FU FU ...
THIS IS ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AKA-GI...
...
HE'S LOSING ON PUR-POSE
HE'S SCATTERING BAIT FOR THE FAKE AKAGI
ドン
THAT URABE ...
IT'S SIMPLE
ZAWA...
ざわ...
...
IN TRUTH HIS ABILITY IS ABOVE THAT AKAGI'S
EH ...?
チャッ チャッ
DURING THE ALL LAST OF THE THIRD ROUND ...
I'LL EXP-LAIN
BUT WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

THESE WERE URABE'S DISCARDED TILES
THIS WAS HIS HAND
...?
DON'T YOU FIND THAT A LITTLE STRANGE, BOSS?
WHEN I ENTERED THE ROOM, URABE CUT HIS JUST DRAWN 11TH TURN 2 MAN
AND THEN HE CUT EVERY-THING AFTER THAT
NO ...
DO YOU GET IT?
FU FU
THIS IS ODD SINCE HE CUT EVERY DRAW AFTER THAT
THE POINT IS THE 10TH TURN DORA DISCARD
YOU'LL UNDER-STAND FROM THE 10TH TURN

THAT GUY'S HAND WAS IN THIS SHAPE ON THE 10TH TURN...

THESE WERE FAKE AKAGI'S DISCARDS

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS

WHICH OF THEM'LL DEPEND ON THE OTHERS' DISCARDS

IS THAT SO

THEN... AT THIS POINT...

I'LL AIM FOR THE SAN-SHOKU

THE DORA IS 5 SOU

WHAT WOULD YOU CUT?

OSAMU

FUFU... THAT'S RIGHT

I COULD CUT THE 7 MAN TO BE SAFE

THE 4 MAN FOR SURE

THEN IT'S SET-TLED

THE 8 SOU...?

OR THE 4 MAN!

AT THAT TIME
BUT AKA-GI
...
YES ...
THAT WHEN FAKE AKAGI WAS IN A 12000 POINT LEAD
ANYONE'D THINK ...
THEY'D GO FOR A TANYAO, SANSHOKU DORA 1
IN THAT CASE ...
OUR REP HAD A HIDDEN 6 SOU TRIPLET
SO HE'D GO FOR A 6, 7, 9 SOU TRIPLE WAIT
ANYTHING'D BE FINE AS LONG AS HE WON, RIGHT?
MIGHT HAVE SENSED THAT AND GAVE THE SANSHOKU UP, CUTTING THE 5 SOU
THAT URABE
HE CAN'T WIN ON THE 9 SOU
OTHERWISE HE COULD ONLY WIN ON THE 7 AND THE FEW REMAINING 6 SOU
IT'D BE IL-LOGICAL
HE WOULD HAVE DECLARED A RIICHI
IF IT WAS AS ISHIKAWA-SAN SAID
THAT'S NOT IT
UNFOR-TUNATELY ...
BUT HE DIDN'T WANT AN UPSET WITH A MANGAN AND ABOVE HAND
IF IT WERE A 2-3000 POINT HAND, FINE
HE DIDN'T WANT TO WIN...
AND DID NOT DECLARE A RIICHI
HE ONLY HAD ONE AIM
THUS, WHEN HE CUT THE 5 SOU

THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T DECLARE A RIICHI...
PRO-BABLY ONE OF THEM
HE MIGHT TRY SOME-THING DURING THE 4TH ROUND...?
HE'LL RAISE THE STAKES NEXT TIME
OR ...
HE'S BEEN LETTING FAKE AKAGI TAKE THE TOP
IT'D BE A MAN-GAN
IF HE GOT A REVERSE DORA
AND HE'D MAKE AN UPSET
ZAWA...
ざわ
ざわ
ZAWA...
WELL... THAT URABE GUY... HE'S BEGGING FOR A TALK
WHAT?
HM?
BOSS
カラ・・

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO LOSE LIKE THIS...
ERR... NOTHING MUCH
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?
WHAT IS IT?
I CAN'T FACE MY BOSS LIKE THIS
UP TO NOW I COULDN'T MAKE A COMEBACK, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE LIKE THIS
REALLY, I'M IN A FIX
YEAH...
1 MILLION...?
I'D LIKE TO HAVE ONE LAST ROUND, DOUBLING IT UP TO 1 MILLION...
THE PREVIOUS ROUND OF 500000...
SO
IF POSSIBLE

CAN WE KEEP PLAYING UNTIL ONE OF US IS TOP?
SO, WHEN THE ROUND ENDS
OI OI
WE DON'T WANT SOMETHING LIKE NII-SAN PLACING 2ND AND ME PLACING 3RD
SINCE THE BET'S DOUBLED
BUT ...
SO IF IT STR-ETCHES ...
DON'T SCREW AROUND!
LET'S SAY THE SAME CONDITIONS HOLD FOR THE OTHER ROUNDS
YOU SURE GOT IT FAST
YES
SO, IF NEITHER OF US ARE TOP, WE PLAY THE ROUND AGAIN?
EH?
IT WON'T HURT TO ACCEPT HIS REQUEST
THE OTHER GUY CAN WAIT...
JUST AC-CEPT IT...
DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE
CALM DOWN ...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY SOME DUMB MAHJONG WITH YOU!
AF-TER THIS I-

DON'T MAKE SUCH A FACE
JUST FINISH TOP IN THIS HAN CHAN
WHAT
...
...
WELL ...
RIGHT ...
...
ISN'T THAT SIMPLE
IF YOU SAY SO, BOSS
HE'D ...
WHETHER AKAGI IS RIGHT
WHILE AKAGI'S WORDS HAD ENLIGHTENED ME...
I WANT TO SEE IT
FU FU
...
IT IS
IS THIS FINE?

KU KU KU ...
SAID THAT URABE'S LEVEL WAS...
AB-OVE OUR REP'S!
AND SO
THE 4TH, LAST HAN CHAN
STARTS WITH A 1 MILLION BET
THOSE WHO'D HEARD AKAGI'S WORDS
BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE EXTENT OF URABE'S ABILITY
BUT ...

TANYAO
DORA 2
5200
RON!
WITH A FEW WINS, HE ESTABLISHES A FIRM FOUNDATION
THE ODDS FAVOR FAKE AKAGI
FUFU...
URABE DOES NOT MAKE A COME-BACK
U...
ALL LAST
...
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO SIGN OF DANGER
AND HOLDS THE TOP THROUGH-OUT THE MATCH

WITH A 15500 POINT DIFF-ERENCE FROM THE TOP
THE 3RD IS URABE, 19000
THE 2ND PLACE IS HELD BY YOSHI-KAWA, 30800
34500
FAKE AKAGI IS TOP
AN OB-VIOUS HAND
PON!
HE HAS TO START PLAYING HIS TRICKS
IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD FOR URABE
A ONE-SHOT REVERSAL HAND...
IF HE GETS A TAN-YAO IT'S A BAI MAN
CHIN ITSU TOI TOI ...

FAKE AKAGI TENPAI!

I GET A 5, 8 SOU WAIT

BY DROPPING IT

IT COMES DOWN TO 4 SOU

I DON'T WANT THAT

IF HE DOES, THIS'LL DRAG ON...

NII-SAN ...

TOO BAD ...

BUT EVEN SO, IT'S OBVIOUS IT'S A CHIN ITSU

HE'S AIMING FOR A HANE MAN OR BAI MAN... WHAT A BIG HAND

WITH THE RIICHI, HE'S 4700 FROM ME

HE COULD UPSET ME

YOSHI-KAWA'S RIICHI

THE MAIN PROBLEM IS...

I CAN IGNORE HIM

RON

GU!

40 FU
3 HAN
5200

TANYAO
TOITOI

ZAWA...

...

SINGLE
WAIT ON
4 SOU!?

ZAWA...

THIS
GUY
...

THROW-
ING AWAY
HIS BAI
MAN TENPAI!

HE CUT
HIS SINGLE
WAIT ON
2 MAN

BY
PULLING
YOSHI-
KAWA
TO TOP

WE
HAVE
TO
EXTEND
THE
MATCH

3RD
RATE
PLAY-
ING...

HE
THREW
AWAY
AN
UPSET

TO
PRO-
LONG
HIS
LIFE

NAR-
ROW-
MIND-
ED
GUY
...

...

INSTEAD HE
WENT FOR
THE EASIER
5200 4
SOU WAIT

カミ!!
CAN'T YOU STOP IT!
KU KU KU ...
BUT I'M SAVED ...
I ESCAPED DANGER
HMPH!
THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT
BUT YOU WON'T BE GETTING TOP IF YOU KEEP PLAYING LIKE THAT!
YOU HAD THE 2 MAN, THAT WAS THE BETTER WAIT
YOU AIM TOO LOW!
FU FU
SINCE WITH THE NEXT ROUND
THE BET'S DOUBLED TO 2 MILLION
IT'S FINE
AS LONG AS I CAN STOP YOU

THAT'S RIGHT
2 MILLION?
EH...
THAT'S NOT TRUE
JUST NOW IT WAS CONTINUING THE BET WITH 1 MILLION ...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!!
OI OI...!
WAS WHAT I SAID!
"THE SAME CONDITIONS HOLD FOR THE OTHER ROUNDS"
AT THAT TIME
IF YOU RECALL CLEARLY
...
THE SAME BET IS BROUGHT OVER
IF THE GAME AT 1 MILLION EXTENDS
ALONG WITH THE SAME CONDITIONS, WAS WHAT I MEANT
UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS, SO DOUBLED TO 100
AND WE PLAYED WITH THAT
50
50
50

BOSS...
...
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
ZAWA... ZAWA...
DON'T SCREW AROUND!
KU KU KU...
I DIDN'T ACCEPT SOME-THING LIKE THAT!
CUT THE DAMN JOKES!
YOU FUCKING CONMAN!

CHAPTER 36: SWINDLE

第36話 詐術

ざわ
ざわ
...
ZAWA... ZAWA...
WHETHER NII-SAN APPROVES OR NOT
IT DOESN'T MATTER ...
KU KU KU ...
I DON'T APPROVE OF THIS
A-AT ANY RATE
HOW ABOUT IT?
SURELY YOU'LL ACCEPT ...?
BOSS
WHAT THE OWNER THINKS
THE MAIN PRO-BLEM IS
BECAUSE NII-SAN DOESN'T HAVE A SAY IN IT

MAKING A REASONABLE REQUEST
I'M
KU KU ...
...
WAS THAT IF NEITHER NII-SAN OR I BECAME TOP
THE NEXT HANCHAN'D CARRY THE SAME CONDITIONS
WHAT I SAID JUST NOW
THERE WAS NO CONTRADICTION
IT WASN'T HARD TO UNDERSTAND
RIGHT ?
SURELY THE BOSS ISN'T THINKING OF REJECTING SUCH LOGIC
IF YOU THOUGHT IT WAS "LET'S HAVE THE SAME 1 MILLION BET AGAIN"
THAT ISN'T MY FAULT
THESE CONDITIONS INCREASED 50K TO 1 MILLION... IN OTHER WORDS, DOUBLED THE BET

ZAWA... ZAWA...
HIS WO-RDS
THIS PROVES URABE'S ABILITY
FU FU ...
ざわ・・
ざわ・
THE BOSS'S REPU-TATION IS AT STAKE
THEN IT BE-COMES BIG
SO HE DRAGGED THE BOSS IN
HE'S BOUND TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE REP
BUT HE'S ALREADY SHOCKED BY THE RAISING FROM 1 TO 2 MILLION...
WITH THE NEW RULES, IT'S POSSIBLE TO REACH AN IMPOSSIBLY LARGE BET...
HE HAS TO ACCEPT DESPITE KNOWING IT'S A TRAP...
...

BOSS!
I'LL ACCEPT IT
FINE ...
...
THIS NEW RULE ...
...
IT'S FINE
DON'T ACCEPT IT! THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS!
I'LL ACCEPT IT...
...BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVE TO DOUBLE THE AMOUNT
BOSS ...
HE DOES MAKE SENSE
I WAS CARELESS
EVEN IF IT'S A TRICK
DON'T BOTHER WITH REASONING!
WIN!
IF YOU'RE TOP IN THE NEXT HAN CHAN
TO WIN
ALL WILL BE FINE
DON'T THINK TOO MUCH
RELAX ...
YOU JUST NEED ...

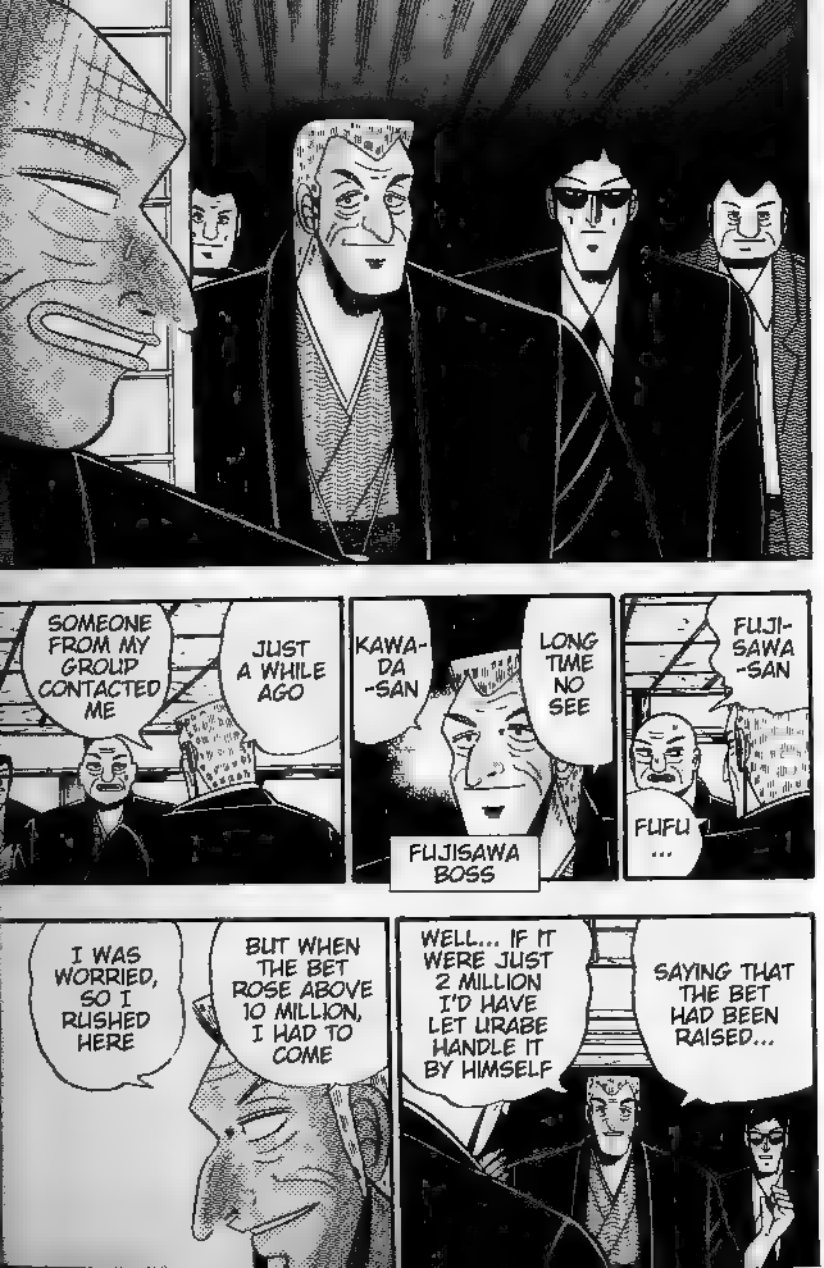
AND SO ...
KE KE KE ...
...
...
YES ...

IF BOTH ARE 2ND AND BELOW, THE BET DOUBLES
AND THEY CONTINUE INTO THE NEXT HAN CHAN
THE CONTINUOUS MATCH BETWEEN URABE AND FAKE AKAGI TO GET TO THE TOP
THE MATCH RESUMES WITH THE NEW RULES
THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED THOUGH
ARE FUTILE
HIS EFFORTS TO REACH THE TOP
CONTRARY TO FAKE AKAGI'S HOPES
NATURALLY, THE MATCH EXTENDS
...
FAKE AKAGI IS AT A DISADVANTAGE
WHILE PREVENTING IT IS FAR EASIER
SIMPLY GIVE YOUR POINTS TO SOMEBODY ELSE
IT'S HARD FOR ANYONE TO BE THE TOP
IN MAHJONG
IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THE TOP
THE OPPONENT, URABE
HE PLAYS TO SUPPORT SOMEONE ELSE

KU KU KU ...
THE MATCH CONTINUES
FROM 200 TO 400, 400 TO 800
...
THIS GUY ...!
IT'S CERTAIN THAT
HE DOESN'T WANT THE TOP
...
DAMN IT
FUU ...
HE INTENDS TO RAISE THE BET
BUT ...
I NEED TO CALM DOWN AND NOT GET FLUSTERED ...

AT FIRST GLANCE
I'M IN FOR A TOUGH FIGHT
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S NATURAL
I'M AIMING FOR THE TOP
WHILE HE PLAYS JUST TO STOP ME
LOOKING AT THIS BATTLE ONLY
HE'D THE ADVANTAGE FROM THE VERY START
SO I HAVEN'T BEEN TOP
IF I THINK ABOUT IT
IT DOESN'T MEAN I'M BELOW HIM
WHILE MY CURRENT SITUATION IS THANKS TO HIM
WE BOTH SHARE THE SAME RISKS... THAT'S ABOUT IT
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO FEAR
...
ZAWA...
ZAWA...
ZAWA...
...
...
BUT THE ROUND ENDS THE SAME WAY!
16 MILLION!

ざわ…
ざわ…
ZAWA...
ZAWA...
WHY?
HE'S RELENTLESS...
IT'S A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD
KEEP RAISING THE STAKES?
WHY DOES THIS GUY...
EH?
カラッ


SOMEONE FROM MY GROUP CONTACTED ME
JUST A WHILE AGO
KAWA-DA -SAN
LONG TIME NO SEE
FUJISAWA BOSS
FUJI-SAWA -SAN
FUFU ...
I WAS WORRIED, SO I RUSHED HERE
BUT WHEN THE BET ROSE ABOVE 10 MILLION, I HAD TO COME
WELL... IF IT WERE JUST 2 MILLION I'D HAVE LET URABE HANDLE IT BY HIMSELF
SAYING THAT THE BET HAD BEEN RAISED...

TO ENSURE ...
I'M HERE AS A WITNESS
YES
PRO-TECT-ED?
THAT URABE AND HIS NEW RULES ARE BEING PROTECTED
MONEY DRIVES A HUMAN MAD...
THERE MIGHT BE VICIOUS TRICKS INVOLVED
IN THE END WE'LL GO BACK ON OUR PREVIOUS WORDS
IF THERE'S A DISPUTE,
WHEN THE STAKES ARE HIGH OUR UGLY SIDES WILL SHOW
WE'RE HUMANS AFTER ALL

NO, NO ...
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE TOO MUCH?
FUJI-SAWA-KUMI-CHO!
...
THIS IS ONLY THE MID-POINT
AND ACCORD-ING TO URABE
BUT IT'S AT 16 MIL-LION
I OF COURSE BELIEVE KAWADA-SAN ISN'T THAT SORT OF MAN
I WAS SPEAK-ING IN GENERAL
ZAWA...
ざわ
...
SO I CAN'T HELP BUT BE WORRIED
THE BET WILL IN-CREASE YET EVEN MORE

ZAWA...

THE MATCH RE-STARTS AT 16 MILLION!

ZA WA...

I'LL HAVE AN EASIER SHOT AT THE TOP

IF I HAVE THEM JUST BE-FORE THE ALL LAST

I'LL PRE-SERVE THEM

THE ORIGINAL 25000 POINTS

FAKE AKAGI'S HAND!

AND AS THEY NEAR THE ALL LAST

I'LL MAKE USE OF THE HOLE IN HIS PLOY...

IN THAT INSTANT I'LL OVER-TAKE HIM

I'VE THOUGHT A LITTLE

BUT... BECAUSE OF THAT

... THIS GUY ...

WHAT BULL-SHIT

INCREASE EVEN MORE?

THE BET WILL

I'LL PUT THAT AIM ON HOLD

MY ATTEMPTS FOR THE TOP HAD FAILED JUST NOW

10TH TURN TENPAI!

SINGLE WAIT ON 2 PIN!

I'LL TAKE THIS!

THE 2 AND 5 PIN SHOULD BE HIS WINNERS

FROM THE 9, 7, 1 PIN CUTS

I CAN'T CUT IT

THE 2 PIN IS DANGEROUS

THE SHIMO CHA, OTA, LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING FOR A PINZI HON ITSU

AND CUT 2 PIN

I'D TAKE IT IN

WITH THIS HAND

THE 6 MAN!

IT'S HERE

IT'S OBVIOUSLY BETTER, BUT...

FOR A 1, 4, 7 MAN WAIT

IN THIS SITUATION...

...

URABE!
EXCEPT ...THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'LL CUT IT
IT'LL APPEAR THAT NO ONE'LL DEAL INTO MY WAIT
AND I CAN ONLY LOOK FOR A TSUMO
I'M AT A 7500 POINT DIFFERENCE WITH HIM
HE WANTS TO SUPPORT THE CURRENT TOP, OTA
A LITTLE SHORT OF AN UPSET
THE 2 PIN HE DEALS
HE'LL LIKELY DEAL INTO HIM
I'LL HEAD BUMP IT!
URABE WANTS OTA TO WIN A LITTLE MORE
I'LL AIM FOR THAT!

I GOT IT!
U...!
THIS IS IT!
THIS 2 PIN!
RON!
FUFU ...

CHUN, DORA 3, MANGAN!!

ZAWA...

ZAWA...

...

I'M CONFIRMED FOR TOP

IF I GET 1000 POINTS

I'LL BE TOP IN THIS ALL LAST

YOUR INSANE PLANS...

HOW'S THAT!?

AND I'LL BE TOP!

NOW I JUST NEED TO TAKE 500 FROM OTA

GOOD ...

BOSS ...

WITH THIS MANGAN I'M NEAR THE TOP NOW

IT'S A REVER-SAL!

YOU'LL SHOULDER IT, THAT 16 MILLION
WHERE YOU CRAZILY INCREASED THE STAKES
THIS LONG-DRAWN BATTLE
WITH THAT
I'VE CAUGHT YOU, URABE!
...
FUFUFU ...
I SEE ...
A HEAD BUMP ...

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
YOU STILL HAD THAT BIT OF INSOLENCE LEFT IN YOU
I MIS-READ YOU
ガシャッ!!
YOU'D HAVE WON IT ...
IF YOU HAD THAT HAND IN THE ALL LAST
BUT ...
HMPH ...
DID YOUR HEAD GO HAYWIRE OR SOME-THING?
I'VE CAU-GHT YOU ...
THAT PROVES THAT NII-SAN'S OUT OF LUCK...
YOU NEED TO WIN THE ALL LAST TO RANK TOP
BY WIN-NING BEFORE THAT
THE TOP, FOR SURE!
I JUST NEED A SMALL WIN TO BE TOP!
OIOI!

I JUST NEED TO WIN 1000
AND MY VICT-ORY'S EN-SURED
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT
IF I GET 1000, IT ALL ENDS
...
UN-LIKE WHAT YOU SAY!
THE ODDS ARE IN MY FAVOR
KU KU KU ...
...
THAT'S WHY THE 1000 WILL BE A THORNY PATH FOR YOU
WITH NII-SAN'S POOR FOOTING
YOU'LL HARDLY BE ABLE TO CROSS IT...

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アカギ④
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